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NEIGHBORS

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Pets

Humane Society, city team up to

By ANNE SULLIVAN

Nacogdoches Humane Society

What do Little Bit, Sparky, Shorty, Pearl and Brownie Baby have in common? Answer: They are among the pets that recently received reduced-fee services at the spay/neuter clinic, a project co-sponsored by the City of Nacogdoches and the Nacogdoches County Humane Society.

The services rendered ranged from canine/feline spay/neutering to disease testing and vaccinations. The clinic, which is housed at the city animal shelter, now performs low-cost spay/neuters on pets of qualifying owners every Thursday, and provides reduced-cost vaccinations, immunizations, microchips and disease-testing,

as well.

Services at the clinic are reserved for any dog or cat owner who demonstrates financial need according to criteria established by the clinic, and to those pet lovers who adopt from the shelter, regardless of financial need. Financial-need forms, step-by-step instructions for getting pets ready for surgery, and the price list for all services are available at the city animal shelter located on Southwest Loop 224, or can be found at the clinic website: www.spayneutemac.com.

In addition to proof of financial need, the clinic also requires proof of vaccination and immunizations before a surgery is scheduled, but can also help with providing these services at significantly reduced

prices. Pet owners in need of these services can contact the shelter at 560-5011 to begin the application process.

The clinic opened to the public Jan. 20 and completed 64 surgeries in that month. The annual goal is set at 1,300 spay/neuter operations for those who qualify for low-cost services. Funding for the clinic is shared by the city, the local Humane Society and donations from private citizens. Equipment and supplies needed to set up the clinic were purchased or donated through the efforts of Dr. Wendy Blount, clinic medical director, who performs the surgeries with the help of trained staff and volunteers.

Please see PETS, Page 2D

help control pets



Lulu is one of the pets who have benefited from the spay/neuter clinic now available at the city animal shelter.

Pets

Continued from Page 1D

"The clinic is up and running," Blount said. "But we still have needs to make our goal of performing 20 to 30 surgeries each day the clinic is in operation a reality, and to facilitate future projected growth."

Some of those needs include donations to help purchase equipment such as additional kennels to house the animals before and after surgery, a washer and dryer to launder towels and linens used during procedures, an additional surgery table to facilitate more time-efficient surgeries, a surgery monitor (pulse oximeter), and an anesthesia machine. The complete "needs list" for the spay/neuter clinic can be viewed and donations made at the Web site: www.spayneuter-nac.com.

In addition to financial contributions, the clinic is also in need of more volunteers to perform such tasks as scanning medical records, cleaning and wrapping surgery packs and doing laundry. Those interested in volunteering for an hour or an afternoon can contact Michele Sprague, director of volunteers, at mdstx77019@yahoo.com or call 560-5011.

The success and operation of the spay/neuter clinic will be determined by the continued cooperation between the City of Nacogdoches and the Humane Society, as well as continued donations and volunteer workers from within the community who care about the health and welfare of pets. The main goal of the spay/neuter clinic is to increase the "save rate" at the city animal shelter by positively impacting the severe pet overpopulation problem in the county.