



ADVOCACY ♦ EDUCATION ♦ ADOPTION

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~ ANNOUNCING ~

SAFE CARE FELINE SPAY/ NEUTER CLINIC



AT SAFE HAVEN FOR CATS

Raleigh's Only Permanent Low Cost Spay Neuter Clinic Is Open!

SAFE Haven for Cats is very excited to announce the **SAFE Care Feline Spay/Neuter Clinic** which opened February 7, 2005. Betsy Pethick, D.V.M., who is a founding member of SAFE Haven for Cats, is the owner of this permanent clinic housed at SAFE Haven for Cats and is contracted by SAFE Haven to run it. As SAFE Haven's Medical Director, Dr. Pethick has been the veterinarian at SAFE Haven's twice monthly (now Monday through Thursday) spay/neuter clinic since 2001. Doug Eader, co-founder of SAFE Haven for Cats is the clinic administrator. This expansion and ownership transfer will allow us to sterilize hundreds of additional cats and kittens every year.

HOW DID THIS CHANGE COME ABOUT?

As a logical goal of our existing low cost spay/neuter program, the Board of Directors of SAFE Haven for Cats has been working steadily towards expanding our clinic. Plans for the new clinic were finalized last October, facilitating a huge commitment of financial and human resources.

WHY IS THE CLINIC NEEDED?

At some Triangle shelters, up to 75% of all incoming animals are euthanized to make room for more (source: www.animalkind.org). Spay/neuter is the solution, but the cost charged by some private veterinarians is a barrier for many. According to AnimalKind, almost all callers responding to one of their spay/neuter ads reported that the cost of surgery was prohibitive.

Low cost spay/neuter providers in our area are spread too thin to meet the demands of a human population of over a million. Three mobile spay/neuter vans cover the seven county area around Raleigh and another unit travels the state. Another provider, Operation Catnip, operates one day a month.

Even with the high euthanasia rates, thousands of other cats are roaming free in our area (feral cats). Some are sick, starving or cold. Some people, who are not sympathetic to their plight and consider stray cats public nuisances, abuse those who wander into their yards looking for food, warmth and love. The sick ones can spread diseases, such as Feline Leukemia and even rabies. In 2002 a domesticated cat in Cary tested positive for rabies.

Low cost spay/neuter services can and will help solve many of these problems.

WHO WILL THE SAFE CARE CLINIC SERVE?

Because SAFE Care is Licensed by the NC Veterinary Medical Board, the general public can use these services for their pets. In addition, SAFE Care's mission is to help other rescue groups with sterilization of the animals in their care and assist caretakers of feral cats all over the Triangle. We will offer help to people who have found a stray cat and will give it a permanent home if the initial medical care is more affordable. It also goes without saying that all the cats at SAFE Haven will receive their complete medical care through the SAFE Care clinic.

Since Dr. Pethick brings 17 years of experience to the clinic, including 8 years performing *pediatric* spay/neuter surgery we are able to sterilize healthy kittens who weigh 2.5 pounds which is usually around 12-14 weeks of age.

THE \$20 FIX

SAFE Care will also be able to accept vouchers from the AnimalKind program—**The \$20 fix**. This is a very innovative and vital program that provides sterilization for pets that may live in lower income households. Follow the link on our web site to AnimalKind and follow the instructions for The \$20 Fix.

WHAT THE SAFE CARE CLINIC WILL NOT PROVIDE

SAFE Care is NOT a wellness clinic! Our mission is to provide low cost sterilization services only! We are blessed in the Triangle with over 100 wonderful veterinary practices staffed with compassionate and caring practitioners who excel in diagnostics, wellness services, and everything from advanced dental care to ultrasonography and endoscopy. Therefore, we will not be providing any services for sick or injured animals, or ongoing wellness care. For these services we encourage you to establish a relationship with one of the professionals at the animal hospital of your choice.

How to Schedule an Appointment

HOURS: The clinic is open from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday every week.

PHONE NUMBER: Call (919) 872-7730 and leave a message.

ON LINE: We offer scheduling through our web site at www.safehavenforcats.org. You can fill out a spay neuter request form and send it to us.

PAYMENT OPTIONS: We can accept cash, checks, and Visa or Mastercard.

How much does it cost?

For \$65, a cat will receive:

- A complete physical exam
- An FVRCP vaccine
- A 1 year rabies vaccine (given to cats 12 weeks or older)
- Spay/neuter with pain medications
- Nail trim
- Ear cleaning

Additional services available include:

- FeLV/FIV testing-\$20
- Treatment with Revolution for fleas, worms, ear mites-\$10
- Pregnant, lactating, or cryptorchid-\$10

THANK YOU!

We want to thank all our donors and volunteers who have made this possible and ask them for their continued support. We know we can make a huge life saving difference in the coming year.

Mission statement: To maintain a non-profit, no-kill shelter for stray and abandoned cats and kittens; to bring attention and alleviate the suffering of stray cats in our community; to educate the public about pet overpopulation and promote sterilization; to find permanent, loving, safe homes for these animals.