



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council

Date: January 27, 2015

From: Gina Schwin-Whiteside
Animal Services Manager
Animal Services Department

Item No: 12

Subject: ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY AS APPLE VALLEY SPAY AND NEUTER AWARENESS MONTH

T.M. Approval: _____

Budgeted Item: Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution No. 2015-03, proclaiming February as Apple Valley Spay and Neuter Awareness Month.

SUMMARY:

Every day, thousands of animals are euthanized in animal shelters across the country due to pet overpopulation. Pet overpopulation is a completely preventable problem. Proclaiming February as Apple Valley Spay and Neuter Awareness Month will raise awareness regarding pet-overpopulation and encourage responsible pet-ownership through spay and neuter. The desired result will be decreasing the numbers of animals entering the Town's Municipal Animal Shelter and reducing the numbers of sheltered animals euthanized because there were not enough homes available.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, Apple Valley Animal Services processed 7,781 animals. Our philosophy is to promote responsible pet-ownership, compassion toward animals and safe human-animal interactions. Staff has shared with the Town Council in the past that the best way to reduce the numbers of animals coming into our shelter is to reduce the numbers of unwanted pets within the community. Spay and neuter is a proven way to control the numbers of unwanted animals being born.

Apple Valley Animal Services supports our community by offering a spay and neuter voucher program that allows low-income, qualified pet owners to have their pet surgically altered for only \$12/dogs and at no cost for most cats, as well as access to low-cost and/or free services through local veterinarians when a dog is licensed with the Town of Apple Valley.

Raising awareness of the importance of spaying/neutering pets is the focus of this requested proclamation. An altered pet saves the owner money because it has a lower license fee, is less likely to roam away from home, have been shown to have longer life spans because of better health and less behavior problems.

ANALYSIS:

N/A

FISCAL REVIEW:

The programmatic impact upon Animal Services revenues is undeterminable. This would have to be reviewed after a full three-year cycle of license renewals to determine how many unlicensed animals were altered and then licensed at a reduced rate.

Decreasing the numbers of animals impounded at the shelter could reduce expenses for caring and feeding animals housed annually.

ATTACHMENT:

Resolution No. 2015-03

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY AS APPLE VALLEY SPAY AND NEUTER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, providing a “Better Way of Life” for the animals in our community is a focus of the Town; and

WHEREAS, veterinarians, humane societies, animal control agencies, and local and national animal welfare organizations have joined together to proclaim the month of February as their Spay and Neuter Awareness Month to advocate the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of animals entering the Town’s Municipal Animal Shelter exceeds the number of available adopters and rescues; and,

WHEREAS, “Saving Lives” by reducing euthanasia is best achieved by decreasing the numbers of unwanted animals being turned into the Town’s shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Apple Valley Animal Services Department promotes spaying and neutering of animals through their voucher program and by offering low-cost or free spay and neutering programs to residents in the Town of Apple Valley to address pet overpopulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Apple Valley does hereby proclaim the month of February as Apple Valley Spay and Neuter Awareness Month and encourages all Town residents to observe the month long campaign by having their dogs and cats spayed or neutered.

Section 1. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective February 1, 2015, upon adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley this 27th day of January, 2015.

Larry Cusack, Mayor

ATTEST:

La Vonda M. Pearson, Town Clerk