

Reduced Cost Spay/Neuter through Paws and Claws Outreach of McDowell County

Paws and Claws Outreach of McDowell County has an agreement with the Humane Alliance in Asheville for reduced cost spay/neuter service once a month. Humane Alliance sends a clinic box truck to Marion for pick up and drop off. They can do 60 animals a month. They are willing to extend this service to anyone in Burke County wanting to participate. They can accommodate up to ten animals a month from Burke County.

The cost is \$45.00 for any dog or cat not needing a rabies shot and \$50.00 for those that do need the shot. Pick up is always on a Monday (no holidays) and drop off is the next day (Tuesday). The location is the County Diner behind the yard sale tables, 2429 Highway 221 North in Marion.

Those wanting to participate should contact Carol Ferebee at 828-756-4811 to reserve a space. They will need to pay the fee up front (cash or check). They must be available to drop off and pick up the animal at the appointed place and time. Drop off on Monday is 8:00 a.m. Pick up is on Tuesday is 11:45 a.m.

The animal should be left in the car until check-in is completed. Cats must be in a hard plastic carrier. Dogs must be on a leash. Owners should bring a crate for the dog if they have one. If not, a crate can be borrowed at the drop off site. Those needing to borrow a crate should tell Carol when they call to reserve a space.

IMPORTANT! Please read the information on **Requirements Before and After Surgery** carefully. Your pet's health and life may depend on it!

Check with Carol for the next scheduled pick up.

Requirements Before and After Surgery

Before Surgery:

- 1) Ensure all vaccinations are up to date. Bring the pet's rabies certificate with you (tags not acceptable as proof of vaccination)
- 2) Very important: Adult animals should have no food after midnight the night before surgery. Animals 4 months or younger may have food until 6 a.m. the day of surgery. Both can have water.
- 3) Pets must be kept indoors the night before surgery (this ensures they are not eating anything outside, which can be very dangerous during surgery)
- 4) A cash or check is acceptable for payment.

Note: A small green tattoo will be placed near the incision to show that the animal has been sterilized.

After Surgery:

- 1) Limit your pet's movement (strenuous activity such as running, jumping, playing) for 7-10 days after surgery
- 2) Do not change your pet's regular diet (no junk food, table scraps, milk, or any other people food for 7 days). Lethargy lasting more than 24 hours, diarrhea, or vomiting is NOT normal. Contact the Humane Alliance of Asheville at once.
- 3) Except for male cats, your pet will have internal sutures that dissolve after approximately 4 months. Do not bathe your pet during the recovery period or apply topical ointment to the incision site. The surgical glue on the incision site will dissolve too quickly if wet.
- 4) Keep your pet indoors where they will be clean, dry and warm. Dogs can be walked on a leash for toilet purposes.

5) Check the incision sites twice daily. There should be no drainage. Redness or swelling should be minimal. Male cats may appear as if they still have testicles – this is normal – the swelling should subside gradually during the recovery period. Do NOT allow the animal to lick or chew at the incision. Bitter Apple or Bitter Orange (both available at pet stores) are recommended to deter this behavior. Cover the incision and spray around it, not directly on it. If this does not stop the behavior, you need to get an E-collar.

6) If your pet appears to be in pain, call the Humane Alliance clinic at 828-252-2079.

7) If a female dog or cats was in heat at the time of surgery, you must keep her away from unneutered males for at least 2 weeks. If a male attempts to breed a female at this point, it could result in serious, possibly life-threatening, damage.

8) Minimal redness and swelling should resolve within several days. If either persists, call the clinic. Also contact the clinic if your pet has any of the following symptoms: pale gums; depression; vomiting; diarrhea; discharge or bleeding from the incision; difficulty urinating; or labored breathing.

9) For emergencies outside regular business hours, call your regular veterinarian or an emergency veterinary facility.