

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Scott Delucchi,  
650/685-8510 or (cell) 650/255-2113

**Senior Coastsiders to Host Peninsula Humane Society's Series of  
Free Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinics for Local Pets**

March 25, 2016 (Burlingame) – The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) is offering a series of free spay/neuter clinics at the Senior Coastsiders (925 Main St) parking lot for pets belonging to Half Moon Bay residents beginning Wednesday, April 20.

Following the April clinic date, PHS/SPCA will visit Senior Coastsiders on the third Wednesday of each month through the end of the year. These dates are: May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16 and December 21.

Pet owners need not make appointments; they simply drop-off dogs or cats between 8-9 am – first-come, first-served – and are instructed to return later the same afternoon to pick-up their pet. A PHS/SPCA staff veterinarian performs surgeries on the 26-foot-long mobile spay/neuter clinic and animals recover inside the vehicle.

“No strings attached, expect for the little ones our vet uses during surgery,” said PHS/SPCA spokesperson Scott Delucchi. “We’ve removed hurdles of cost and transportation by bringing this vital service to people and making it absolutely free.”

For safety and practical reasons, PHS/SPCA does not accept dogs over 80 pounds or over 8 years old; puppies and kittens must be at least 16 weeks of age and all animals must be vaccinated. Owners are limited to one pet per family and pets must fast from midnight on the evening before surgery. Clinic staff give pet owners recovery instructions at the time of pick-up.

PHS/SPCA visits targeted communities with its mobile spay/neuter clinic throughout the year, averaging 900 annual surgeries while reaching many low-income or fixed-income pet owners who otherwise would not be able to afford the surgery.

The mobile clinic is donor supported. In 2005, PHS/SPCA Board member Vanessa Getty funded the purchase of the vehicle, specially designed to house a surgery suite and post-surgery recovery kennels. Getty and a small group of friends formed a group called San Francisco Bay Humane Friends and have continued supporting the program by covering annual expenses.

More “fixed” animals means fewer accidental litters and fewer unwanted animals at the shelter. And, spayed or neutered animals are much less likely to act aggressively and contract forms of cancer.

“It’s wonderful when we have a donor, or small group of donors in this case, who ask how they can make a difference, then they make it happen,” continued Delucchi.

In 1970, PHS/SPCA took in more than 45,000 stray or unwanted dogs and cat per year. The number began to decline dramatically when PHS/SPCA opened its low-cost spay/neuter clinic in 1972 and dipped below 10,000 unwanted pets, annually, in the late 1990s. Since 2005, the free mobile spay/neuter program has been further driving down the number of unwanted pets in San Mateo and San Francisco Counties by reaching people who could not afford the shelter's low-cost option or drive to the San Mateo clinic location.

If local resident have questions about the upcoming clinics in Half Moon Bay, they can call 650/340-7022, ext. 387.

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