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“CatNips” Successfully Spays and Neuters More than 200 Cats

216 privately owned cats were spayed or neutered in a five week period under the “CatNips” program. “CatNips”, an aggressive outreach campaign, aimed to spay/neuter as many cats as possible through the month of February 2012. The goal of the surgeries was to prevent the births of unwanted animals and decrease populations in our local animal shelters.

The “CatNips” Program was deliberately designed to take place in February, when most female cats usually go into heat and become pregnant. Of the 133 spays performed, each female would likely have delivered 15-20 kittens over the course of the year.

Santa Barbara County Animal Services, in a collaborative partnership with the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society provided pet surgeries at the very affordable rate of $20 per cat for Santa Barbara County residents. Cat owners from the Santa Ynez Valley, Lompoc, Guadalupe, and Santa Maria areas took advantage of the opportunity to alter their pets.

Santa Barbara County Animal Services and the Santa Maria Valley Humane Society are two members of the Responsible Pet Ownership Alliance. This Alliance includes Santa Barbara County animal welfare agencies, shelters, and non-profit organizations that are committed to ensuring affordable spay/neuter services are available county-wide.

The Responsible Pet Ownership Alliance organizations are working together to increase the number of cats and dogs that are spayed and neutered in the county and in turn help to eliminate hundreds of unwanted kittens, puppies, dogs and cats coming into our shelters each year. The problem is preventable and the solution is affordable. The organizations’ affordable spay/neuter programs are targeted to help caring families and individuals who are trying their best to be responsible pet owners by spaying and neutering their companion animals. Be part of the solution and a responsible pet owner-spay and neuter your pets. For more information on where to find affordable services countywide, visit http://projectpetsafe.org/spay_neuter.php

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