

January 18, 2023

Dear HSNC Supporter,

Two and a half years beyond Covid's onset, experiencing a sagging economy, supply and demand issues, a myriad of global woes and inevitable change, we are still trying to do our best and adjust. The HSNC is devoted to reducing pet overpopulation by providing spay/neuter assistance to Navarro County citizens for their owned pets. Love of animals and sympathy for abandoned strays do not go hand in hand with income. Many good people need our help.

How does the HSNC succeed in spite of growing challenges? In the 12 month period ending August 31, 2022, what has HSNC accomplished?

The HSNC SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM: The HSNC helped with surgery expenses for 763 animals at a cost of \$83,371.61. This includes 366 dogs representing 20,496 prevented births and 397 cats representing 33,348 prevented births. Current issues include unsupportable veterinary price increases with some facilities and impossible wait times of not weeks, but months, for surgical appointments. These obstacles translate to unwanted litters and postponed vaccinations for rabies and parvo.

The HSNC continues to process approximately 20 or more spay/neuter applications per week. We provide information to each client about all available alternatives. HSNC prefers to use local veterinarians when possible. Other options include Spay/Neuter Network, Friends of the Animals, TCAP and Pet Vet Relief. Use of alternatives is hindered by applicants' inability to drive distances. The expense, lack of transportation, inconvenience, inability to leave school age children and work prevent many from utilizing other sources.

DUCKY'S PET FOOD FRIDAY: Board member Erin Abay, in coordination with the HSNC, implemented Ducky's Pet Food Friday. This program provides free supplemental pet meals for 30 to 45 families and over 275 pets per month. There is such high demand that Erin and volunteers had to change the giveaway to the first Friday of each month instead of every Friday. The traffic jam at the HSNC office (housed at Today Homes) forced HSNC to move the event to Fullerton-Garrity Park. Food Friday gives away 1000 lbs of dog and cat food in one day at a cost of at least \$500 per month. In October, all the food (bagged in large zip lock bags) was

distributed in 23 minutes! Donations of money and food (even in open bags) are eagerly accepted.

SPECIAL EVENTS: HSNC's annual special events include the Derrick Days Adoption Event with the City Shelter in April, Pooch Paddle at Jester Park Pool in August and Mutts n' Strays Reunion, Pet Costume Contest, Trunk or Treat for pets and hot dog supper for our members in October. We love seeing our supporters and pets! Our new website and Facebook page are always up to date and the best sources for information. Watch for the new section featuring memorials and honorariums.

HSNC and THE CITY SHELTER: The HSNC continues to help our local City of Corsicana Animal Shelter through volunteering, sharing of information and providing access to donated spay/neuter funding earmarked for the shelter. Ashley McCalvin and her shelter management team are making much needed improvements and are enjoying greater community involvement. We are buoyed by their success. The City Shelter and the HSNC are formidable allies in the fight to stem pet overpopulation in Navarro County.

HSNC began its Spay/Neuter Program 20 years ago. Our first application for grant funding garnered \$5,000. Thanks to generous individuals, trusts and grants, we continue to serve. There is a magnitude of need community wide and many worthwhile causes. Sadly, all compete for donations. Covid forced the loss of income normally generated at our Annual Tom and Daun Wilson Memorial Golf Tournament, yet last year our membership drive brought in an amazing \$36,120. Our vet bills are in the thousands each month and funds are normally spent quickly. Today our bank account would be depleted if not for the enormous generosity of our members.

Our faithful members and our prospective new members are the lifeline we take with us every step of the way to achieving our goals and our mission. Your membership not only gives the HSNC the courage to strike out and change but also to thrive and grow. We hope you will grow with us in the year ahead and beyond.

Sincerely,

Humane Society of Navarro County Board Members