



JoCo Spay & Neuter Fund

Why Does it Take So Long to Get a Spay/Neuter Appointment?

Due to Covid, we cancelled our "Fix Your Pet-Win \$100" Contest because of the tremendous slowdown in appointments for spay/neuter surgeries that is occurring in Josephine County. Veterinary clinic staff offered many reasons for the pile-up.

- Starting in mid-March, Oregon instituted a statewide ban on all non-elective veterinary surgeries, including spay/neuter. The ban lasted several months, and vets are still trying to catch up.

- During the pandemic, pet adoptions sky-rocketed and new owners continue to call for s/n and other services.

- Working more from home, people noticed more about their pets... their cat's teeth looked funky or the dog was overweight, so they called the vet.

- Isolated by Covid, folks had

serious unanswered veterinary questions and concerns leading to longer client interaction time.

- After months cooped up, families want to hit the road with pets needing checkups, vaccinations, etc.

- Time-consuming PCP and other virus protective measures slow down everything from clinic check-in to surgeries.

- Some clinic employees had to stay home from work due to illness or at-risk family, also slowing workflow.

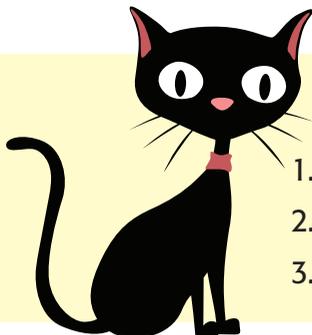
The reasons for the slowdown are many. The result? Many local pets won't get fixed during spring breeding season, with appointments so delayed. It is a tragic situation, because one cat can have three litters a year, around 18 kittens, while dog litters can add up too.

**Facebook
and JCSNF**



Thanks to former JCSNF Board Member Toni Webb and longtime volunteer Nancy Lindquist, JCSNF has an active, informative Facebook page that has attracted 669 followers. "A recent post about the need for spay neuter garnered 127 shares (to people and groups) touching almost 7,000 people," Nancy says.

Other FB groups often refer to our page when county residents ask for s/n help, where they find engaging examples about why dogs and cats need fixin', like an illustration showing how fast a cat population can grow in just two years, or a cartoon illustrating reasons to spay/neuter your pet. THANK YOU Toni and Nancy!



3 Ways You Can Prevent Unwanted Litters of Kittens

1. Spay/neuter your cats.
2. If you feed a stray cat, make sure s/he is fixed!
3. If someone you know is feeding a stray cat or cats, make sure all the kitties are fixed!

Two Raskin Award Winners This Year!



The HOPP Team ready to help homeless people and their pets at their monthly free clinic.

Dr. Robyn Leonard used her Sundays to fix JoCo Animal Shelter pets during the s/n surgery slowdown.



A pup at HOPP clinic awaits his turn.



Kitten eyes scale at required weigh in.



From clipping toenails to vaccinations, HOPP is ready.

The Raskin Award, named in honor of JCSNF Founder Carl Raskin, is given each year by the Josephine County Animal Shelter Advisory Board to someone who improves animal welfare in Josephine County. This year, Homeless Oregon Pet Project (HOPP) and Robyn Leonard DVM, of Pacific Veterinary Hospital, won the award.

"I just wanted to see what I could do to help out our local shelter," says Dr. Leonard. She learned from Josephine County Animal Shelter Manager Laura Milnes that since Phoenix Animal

Hospital in Jackson County burned down last year, the shelter was struggling to get all dogs and cats fixed (required prior to adoption). To help the shelter catch up, Dr. Leonard began to fix shelter animals on Sundays at Pacific Veterinary Hospital. Great idea, and congratulations!

Our second winner, the non-profit Homeless Oregon Pet Project (HOPP), began in 2009, after Julie Tavares, DVM attended a County Homeless Count. "I realized there was a huge need for people who found themselves

homeless with pets – rabies vaccinations, flea control, ear infections ..." She did her first veterinary outreach clinic at the Homeless Count, then at a soup kitchen before HOPP established monthly events at Riverside Park. On May 5th, the HOPP team provided vaccinations, worming nail trims and more to 49 pets owned by 36 clients. It refers spay/neuters to JCSNF. Learn more about HOPP on its Facebook page and at www.homelessoregonpetproject.org

Toby Fund Founder, A Hero for the Animals, Will be Missed

Kathy Oxendine passed away last month and the sadness is being felt throughout our community. She was a hero to the animals and people she helped. Summing up her focus is the Toby Fund of Wolf Creek Mission Statement:

"Our mission is to foster a culture of compassion for animals in rural communities through the development and implementation of educational and animal protection programs."

Incorporated in 2006, Kathy began the Toby Fund as her life's purpose. (The nonprofit is named for one of Kathy's adored cats). Though having a small board and volunteers, she often did much of the work herself managing programs like Unchain My Heart which created secure fencing so dogs could move freely instead of

being tied up. You only have to look at some of Kathy's success stories to see the joy on a canine face when nothing is tugging his neck. Over 230 dogs and 4 goats have been unchained.

A source of income was necessary to provide financial assistance to those people whose pets required veterinary care they couldn't afford. Kathy began the Stand By Me group of fluctuating donors to request support. This wonderful group of people often had one of the stories featured in the quarterly newsletter, the Toby Tribune.

The Toby fund was awarded the first Raskin Award from the Josephine County Animal Shelter Advisory Board having helped 3,000 animals through spay and neuter, veterinary support and freedom from chains. Kathy was



Kathy Oxendine, Toby Fund Founder, worked to make life better for the animals of Josephine County.

an animal hero to our community.

The future of the Toby Fund is uncertain at this time but the Toby Board is managing to help animals and their people with financial support with donations and funds available.

Purrs 'n Wags for Spay/Neuter!

Every cat or dog you help us "fix" saves countless puppies and kittens from abandonment, abuse and euthanasia. They say, "Thank you!" as do our supporters...

...from Candace Morasch...*"Let's keep fixin' all the deserving critters who need our help..."*

...from Robert and Linda Stanford...*"Thank you for all the good you do in our community. Bless you all—have a happy holiday season."*

...from Mike Zerwer...*"Thank you for the outstanding work you do to protect the cats and dogs in our community..."*

...from Carla Anderson...*"I hope the coming year will be generous to you and kind to our little furry friends. Thank you for all you do for them."*

...from Willa Warren...*"With thanks for your good work!"*

...from Phill and Kellie Miller...*"Thank you for always being there for me when I need advice on cats!"*

...from Bonnie Rhodes and Stewart Winnick...*"Many thanks for your assistance in finding homes for the Asante Hospital cats. That was a big project with a lot of cats! Stewart and I would like to donate towards providing the much needed assistance for the spay and neuter in Josephine county. We are particularly interested in the feral cat colonies..."*

We appreciate each and every donation. Hats off to monthly donors and those who remember JoCo Spay & Neuter Fund in their trusts or bequests...it makes a world of difference for the animals. Thank you.

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THANK YOU

Our 2021 Thank You List So Far!

Karen Cannone
Mary Rhodes
WDIFL.com
J.A. & Barbara Rankins
Candace Morasch
Ronald & Shirley Usher
Mark Flynn
Pat Chandler
Kathy Ryan
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Judy Reynolds
Anita Savio
Marguerite Gasso

JCSNF Website, Email Updated

A big Thank You goes to computer guru Galen Garretson for giving a much-needed update to JCSNF's website (jocospayneuter.org). Galen also initiated MailChimp so that we can email appeals, newsletters and events news. Reminder: we have updated our email address; it is now info@jocospayneuter.org