

**PAWS for Action – Spay & Neuter  
To run 5/1/2016**

The other day I was reviewing the “No Kill Equation” developed by Nathan Winograd, one of the early pioneers of the “No-Kill” movement. While I have seriously mixed feelings about the way Winograd delivers his message, his 11 point recipe for No Kill makes a lot of good sense.

I feel fortunate to work for PAWS Humane, an organization that addresses every single point in spades. We have strong relationships with the local rescue groups in east Alabama and west Georgia.

We maintain a robust volunteer program rewarding loyal volunteers with specialized training and assignments.

Our outreach to underserved neighborhoods is targeted to deliver products and services that honestly make a difference in the lives of the residents and their pets. Our goal is to build long-term relationships.

Our city received \$700,000 in funding from Best Friends Animal Society to operate a three-year trap-neuter-release program that has resulted in zero euthanasia of healthy and treatable cats since January, 2015. PAWS Humane has provided spay/neutered surgeries to 89% of the 3,655 cats addressed under this program to date.

We provide comprehensive adoption services which include a spayed or neutered animal who is up to date on core vaccines. Most of our dogs know basic commands when they leave our facility thanks to our dedicated 20 member volunteer dog training corps. We also have a certified professional dog trainer available to assist with any behavior issues that may crop up after the adoption.

What we at PAWS Humane are most proud of is the 36,000 milestone we recently hit on spay/neuter surgeries in Columbus, Georgia. Affordable spay/neuter and wellness care is making a huge difference in animal control intakes which have dropped precipitously since 2014.

Of course I’m ecstatic to see that Lee County is finally making a foray into low cost spay/neuter services for residents. In spite of several years of intensive efforts, nonprofit veterinary clinics like PAWS Humane are still not legal in Alabama as they are in Georgia.

Participating local veterinarians will soon be offering low cost services to very low income residents. While access to the program is extremely limited, at least it is something.

The only problem is we don’t know how much these low cost services are going to cost local government. The contract is silent on how much Lee County will be asked to pay local vets for their services. At the recent meeting of the Lee County Commission, only Sheila Eckman seemed to find this concerning. Eckman was instructed to simply trust those in charge to do the right thing.

In Wednesday’s Opelika-Auburn News I read a couple of incoherent quotes from government officials referencing the prices charged by the Alabama Animal Alliance in Montgomery. Since I couldn’t make much sense out of these I decided to go straight to the Alabama Animal Alliance and ask them.

A female dog spay is \$80; a male dog spay is \$65. For a female cat spay the price is \$65 and for a male cat it is \$45.

At PAWS Humane we charge a flat rate of \$75 for both spay and neuter of dogs and cat spays. A cat neuter is \$50. If you are a member of the public caring for a feral cat colony we provide spay/neuter surgeries for these cats at \$35. This includes a three year rabies shot and an ear tip.

This is what it takes to solve the problem of pet overpopulation and the results speak for themselves.

*Bobbi Yeo lives in Opelika, AL. She is the CEO of PAWS Humane in Columbus, GA, an animal shelter and veterinary clinic offering low-cost spay/neuter and other services to the public. Email her at [byeo@pawshumane.org](mailto:byeo@pawshumane.org) with your comments and story ideas.*