

**PAWS for Action – Spay & Neuter**  
**To run 5/22/2016**

The other day I pulled out a copy of the “No Kill Equation” developed by Nathan Winograd, one of the early pioneers of the “No-Kill” Movement. While I don’t care for the way Winograd delivers his message, his 11 point plan for No Kill makes good sense.

I feel fortunate to work for PAWS Humane, an organization that delivers on every single point. We have strong relationships with 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 Columbus 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 resulted in zero euthanasia of healthy and treatable cats since January, 2015. PAWS Humane provided spay/neuter surgeries to 89% of the 3,655 cats addressed under this program to date.

Our comprehensive adoption services 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 trainers who operate under the guidance of a certified professional dog trainer. Karlene, our trainer, is 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 steadily since 2014.

Because of particularly restrictive laws in Alabama, nonprofit organizations such as PAWS Humane are not permitted to open a low cost veterinary clinic on this side of the Chattahoochee River. So it was welcome news earlier this year to see that some Lee County veterinarians will be offering low cost spay/neuter surgeries with the cost to be subsidized by local government. While access to the program is limited, it is a beginning.

Most people love their pets and want to take care of them. At PAWS Humane we charge a flat rate of \$75 for both spay and neuter of dogs and for cat spays. A cat neuter is only \$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.

If you know someone who doesn’t quite fall below the poverty line but wants to be a responsible pet owner please let them know that low cost services are available nearby. Just go to <http://www.aspca.org> and search for low-cost spay/neuter clinics.

*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.*