



A "WISH LIST"

for the

Humane Society of Mecklenburg County

& Charlotte Animal Control Bureau

This special note is being distributed by volunteers helping the Humane Society of Mecklenburg County "get the word out" about the desperate situation of pet overpopulation in Mecklenburg county.

This problem is getting worse by the day and we need your help to raise public awareness about the importance of spaying & neutering cats & dogs. Last year alone over 20,000 animals came into the Charlotte Animal Control Bureau. Of these, over 14,000 had to be euthanized because there were simply not enough people coming in to adopt them. In fact, less than 3,000 were adopted and a little over 2,000 were lost pets reclaimed by their owners. Consider the fact that in just 6 years, 1 unspayed female dog & her offspring can give birth to 67,000 puppies and in 7 years, 1 cat and her young can produce 420,000 kittens! Unbelievable but true. The worst part is that every dog or cat who dies as a result of pet overpopulation (whether humanely euthanized in a shelter or by injury, neglect, or disease) is an animal who, more often than not, would have made a wonderful companion, if given the chance. The solution to the "too many pets and not enough homes" crisis is to make sure every dog & cat is spayed or neutered. Every time someone breeds their pet, they are taking away the opportunity for a homeless animal to be adopted. This causes tremendous heartache for all the caring animal control shelter workers who are forced to euthanize one animal after another because there aren't enough people coming in to adopt them. What's worse is that these numbers wouldn't be so high if people would just care enough to spay & neuter their pets.

Currently, HSMC has a program in place called S.N.I.P. (Spay & Neuter Intervention Program), but it isn't being funded the way it needs to be. The goal of S.N.I.P. is to reduce the euthanasia rate & to increase the adoption rate of these homeless animals. Its success boils down to the fact that we need to get the businesses in Charlotte involved with the HSMC as corporate sponsors. Our goal is to raise \$500,000 & we can do that if we get 500 companies to sponsor us at \$1,000 each (more if we're lucky). This money would be used to purchase a spay & neuter truck so the HSMC could go into problem neighborhoods where unspayed & unneutered animals are rampant. The HSMC would love to be able to go into these neighborhoods 3-4 times a week, but right now we simply don't have the money or resources. The money from corporate sponsors & residents would also be used to educate the public about the pet overpopulation problem and why spaying & neutering their pets is so important. Of course, we also have other expenses as a non-profit such as housing, food, medications, etc... The HSMC does not receive any financial assistance from the city of Charlotte, county or State of North Carolina. Occasionally we get small grants which always run out. We have to rely on the Mecklenburg County residents & local businesses for support. We have put together the "Wish List" below of items that we are in need of throughout the year but we are also desperately in need of adoptive families, foster homes & financial support. We would really appreciate any help you may be able to give & we know the homeless animals would, too! If you wish to make a donation, become a corporate sponsor or volunteer, please call:

Ron Simons, Executive Director of HSMC. 704-533-0851. Our address is on the back of this Wish List. Thank you for your help!

Together we can be part of the solution.

Food & Medicine

Be sure to call the shelter before you bring food. Each shelter has specific brands they use. The last thing these poor animals need is an upset stomach from eating different foods.

- ◇ Dog, Puppy, Cat & Kitten food (see note above)
- ◇ KMR milk for kittens & Esbilac milk for puppies
- ◇ Dog & cat treats
- ◇ Liquid Robutussin or Tussin Cough Syrup
- ◇ Q-tips, Band-Aids, & hydrogen peroxide
- ◇ Powder free rubber gloves
- ◇ Gauze pads & medical tape



Office Supplies

- ◇ Computer & printer
- ◇ Paper clips, tape, scissors, staplers, staples, rubber bands, clipboards, file folders, & stamps
- ◇ White copier paper, color paper, & pads of lined paper
- ◇ Pens, pencils, black markers & highlighters

Pet Items

- ◇ Clean towels, washcloths, sheets & blankets
- ◇ Dog & cat toys
- ◇ Cat beds & dog beds
- ◇ Scratch pads for cats
- ◇ Small cat litter pans & non-clumping litter
- ◇ Cat carriers & dog crates
- ◇ Dog collars & leashes
- ◇ Stainless steel food bowls
- ◇ Flea spray, pet shampoo, brushes & combs
- ◇ Playpens
- ◇ Newspapers

Miscellaneous Supplies

- ◇ Paper towels & toilet tissue
- ◇ Hand soap, Pinesol, Liquid 409
- ◇ All size garbage bags (especially large)
- ◇ Bleach, laundry & dishwashing detergents
- ◇ Scrub brushes, squeegees, mops, mop heads, brooms, dust pans, buckets, & rubber gloves

If you wish to make a donation to the Humane Society of Mecklenburg County or drop off Wish List Items to either the Humane Society or Animal Control, please see below.

Humane Society of Mecklenburg County (non-profit)

(mailing address) P.O. Box 30484, Charlotte, NC 28230

(physical address) We're in the process of moving—please call.

(phone) 704-533-0851 (contact) Ron Simons—email: rsimons@cmpd.org

(web site) <http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/NC190.html>

If you have any "Wish List" items that you would like to donate to us, please drop them off at the Charlotte Animal Control Bureau listed below. They'll be sure we get them!

We are also in need of 2-3 volunteers who can give 10-20 hours a week as well as someone who can help with our web site.

Charlotte Animal Control Bureau

8315 Byrum Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217 (phone) 704-336-3786

(web site) <http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/NC127.html>

Special Note:

The Charlotte Animal Control Bureau works closely with the Humane Society of Mecklenburg County to help find animals good homes. The last thing they want is have to euthanize another animal!

Animal Control shelters are also a wonderful place to adopt your next pet.

What Else Can You Do To Help?

For starters, you can make a copy of this letter & pass it out to everyone you know including all your neighbors, co-workers, friends & family members! Help get the word out!

1. Make sure your pet is spayed or neutered! Please don't contribute to the pet overpopulation problem!
2. Adopt your next pet from the Humane Society of Mecklenburg County or Charlotte Animal Control.
3. Make a donation whether it's monthly or yearly
4. Ask your company to become a corporate sponsor of the Humane Society of Mecklenburg County.
5. Make a bequest in your will or a living trust.
6. Volunteer to be a foster family to a dog or cat until they can be found a permanent home.
6. Donate items on the Wish List throughout the year. The Humane Society of Mecklenburg County as well as Animal Control would welcome your help in any way!
7. Volunteer to help with feeding, exercising, bathing & grooming, cleaning kennels, fundraising, etc...
8. Report ANY abuse or neglect to the Charlotte Animal Control Bureau, Humane Society of Mecklenburg County or police station. It's against the law to leave a pet outside without proper shelter. They can freeze to death just like humans.

Shelter Statistics:

- ◆ There are between 8-10 million cats & dogs entering shelters each year. Of these, approximately half are euthanized each year because there aren't enough people adopting them. Millions more are left abandoned.
- ◆ The number of cats & dogs adopted from shelters each year is between 3-5 million.
- ◆ Sadly, only about 15-30% of dogs & 2-5% of cats entering shelters each year are reclaimed by their owners. Why? Every effort is made by shelter workers to reunite pets with their owners but it is nearly impossible when the pets come in without tags on their collars, tattoo ID's or microchip ID's.

All statistics are from the Humane Society of the United States. (web site) <http://www.hsus.org/ace/352>

DOG Facts:

- ◆ Purebreds account for about 25% to 30% of a shelter's dog population.
- ◆ There are approx. 68 million owned dogs in the U.S. & 4 in 10 (or 40 million) households own at least 1 dog.
- ◆ Only 20% of owned dogs are adopted from a shelter.
- ◆ Only 7 of 10 owned dogs are spayed or neutered.

CAT Facts:

- ◆ There are approx. 73 million owned cats in the U.S. & 3 in 10 (or 34.7 million) households own at least 1 cat.
- ◆ Only 20% of owned cats are adopted from a shelter.
- ◆ Only 8 of 10 owned cats are spayed or neutered.

Check Out These Web Sites:

<http://www.petfinder.com> <http://www.pets911.com/index.php>
<http://www.spayusa.org/>

You can get "Neuter or Spay" stamps from the US Postal Service!
http://shop.usps.com/cgi-bin/vsbv/postal_store_non_ssl/home.jsp