

CAT SPAYING

The Animal Shelter has recently received a gift for the specific purpose of helping to pay for the spaying and neutering of cats.

To begin such a program, it is proposed that the Board of Commissioners consider a new policy that all cats adopted from the shelter be spayed or neutered. This policy is intended to reduce the number of unwanted cats in the County and to reduce the number of cats which Animal Control must handle.

It is also proposed that the present adoption fee of \$10 remain the same but that a deposit for spay/neuter of \$10 be approved.

Animal Control Director Valarie Grimes has consulted with local veterinarians and has obtained support for the following program:

Step 1 - A person adopting a cat pays the adoption fee of \$10.00 plus a \$10.00 spay/neuter deposit. He/she takes the cat to the vet for a free physical exam and office visit. The vet tests the cat for distemper, upper respiratory viruses, ear mites, intestinal parasites, etc. (fee) to be sure that the cat is healthy before scheduling surgery. The vet schedules the surgery and also vaccinates the cat for rabies (fee) per owner request.

Step 2 - The owner takes the cat to the vet for surgery. After surgery, the vet bills his/her usual fee less a \$5.00 vet discount, the \$10.00 spay/neuter deposit and the \$10.00 which will come from the money deposited from Animal Service League. The vet then bills the Animal Shelter for the \$10.00 deposit and the \$10.00 donation fee from Animal Service League.

This new program accomplishes the policy of spaying/neutering all cats adopted from the shelter at a net cost to the owner that is \$25.00 less than usual.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

TLP:mab

attachment

cc: Val Grimes

M-91-95

A motion to approve a spay/neuter policy and program for cats adopted from the shelter as outlined by Animal Control Director Valarie Grimes.

ADOPTED: 04/11/1995

CATS

The Risks Involved in Adopting a Pet from a Shelter

Distemper

Cat distemper is also known as panleukopenia or feline enteritis. This is a highly contagious disease among cats but is not the same virus as dog distemper. Thus, cats cannot contract dog distemper and dogs cannot contract cat distemper. The usual symptoms are appetite loss, fever, diarrhea, inflamed and watery eyes, drooling, vomiting, dehydration, and lethargy. The virus is airborne and can spread by contact with infected animals and can be carried on clothing and shoes of those in contact with infected cats. A preventive inoculation is the best protection, the first of which should be given when the cat is eight weeks old. As with puppies, kittens need a series of distemper shots, followed by yearly boosters to keep up a safe level of immunity.

Upper Respiratory Viruses

These include rhinotracheitis, calici, and herpes viruses. The usual symptoms are repeated sneezing and coughing, nasal and sinus congestion, fever, inflamed watery eyes, loss of appetite, a humped over lethargic appearance, and sometimes, ulcers of the mouth. All of these viruses are highly contagious among cats. Prevention through inoculation is the best protection and yearly boosters are required to maintain a safe level of immunity.

Ear Mites

These parasites are commonly found in cats' ears. Ear mites should be suspected when a cat shakes its head frequently, holds its head unbalanced to one side, rubs and paws its head and has dirty-looking ears. Left untreated, mites will cause ear infections leading to deafness and possible loss of the sense of balance.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I understand that the animal I am interested in adopting may require medical treatment that could result in significant veterinary medical bills. I will not hold the Cass County Animal Control shelter accountable for the cost of such treatment as the animal may require after adoption.

SIGNATURE

DATE