



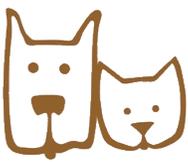
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Springfield  
*CATSNIP*



• W • A • G •

# WILLAMETTE ANIMAL GUILD SPAY / NEUTER PROJECT

W • A • G

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**NORMA KING**  
Proprietor, Action Mower  
Master Cat Trapper

Last year, WAG received an inquiry from the City of Springfield as to whether the clinic could partner with the City in order to offer 30 monthly spays or neuters for owned cats within the city limits for \$10 each. We worked out a deal together and the first CatSnip Clinic was held on July 31, 2013.

Springfield particularly wanted transport made available to those who couldn't get to the clinic on their own. As a result, volunteer drivers from WAG pick up cats at one of two Springfield locations every alternate clinic. One is the Lucky Paws adoption center on Centennial Boulevard and the other is Action Mower & Equipment Repair on Main Street. Many thanks to Juli Upshaw and her staff of volunteers and Norma King and her employees: they open early on clinic days to admit those bringing in their cats for transport, and for the ten days previous they pre-register clients and take prepayments.

By the end of 2013, WAG and the City of Springfield will have partnered to spay or neuter 150 cats that might not otherwise have been altered. We at WAG applaud this effort by the City of Springfield to initiate a pilot program to begin to address the cat overpopulation problem in town.



**JULI UPSHAW**  
Director  
Lucky Paws Rescue

There has been no cat program in Springfield since 2001, when what was then Lane County Animal Regulation (LCARA) stopped taking in Springfield cats due to lack of funding. Since municipal funding remains unavailable, the City has asked WAG, a nonprofit organization that can accept tax-deductible contributions and has extensive grant-writing experience, to fund the project through charitable donations. This has worked so well that we now await what we hope will be a major grant to start a TNR program for the city's strays and ferals. This program would feature trapping assistance and a recovery program as well as spay/neuter at no cost. WAG is looking for a headquarters for this program and we have volunteers waiting to participate. Receipt of this grant funding will be announced loud and clear on WAG's website as well as Brian Austin's Animal Control Facebook page. **(See next page for more about Brian)**



**AUTUMN AND ZANZIBAR**  
AT WAG

## HELP FROM OUTER SPAYCE

Helping to bring up the numbers of cats spayed and neutered this year in Springfield was SpayShip, a part of the Save the Pets rescue organization. SpayShip sponsored three month-long programs, Spay Day in February, Independence Spay in July, and the Oktoberfest, offering \$10 S/N to any Springfield cats, owned or stray. These three promotions resulted in an additional 308 cats being altered in 2013, and have helped determine that if the price is right, most people are happy to spay their animals. Keep up with SpayShip at [facebook.com/SpayShip](https://facebook.com/SpayShip).



BRIAN AUSTIN  
Springfield Animal Control Officer

**SO, AFTER PROMOTING PROGRAMS** offering the best solution to the pet overpopulation problem (spay and neuter) what else can a city with a tight budget do about Animal Control? Well, if you only have the money to hire one Animal Control officer, you hire one who is very good. You hire Brian Austin.

In Springfield, Animal Control is a part of the Police Department. At the police station, there are two dog kennels where lost dogs can be kept for 24 hours. Very early in his tenure, Brian realized the potential of helping these dogs through social networking, which reaches everywhere, is popular and **free**. On Facebook, at [facebook.com/SpringfieldAnimalControl](https://facebook.com/SpringfieldAnimalControl), Brian posts photos, descriptions, and sometimes video of each lost dog that comes into the station. With 1,372 Likes, the page helps return dogs to their owners without having to send them miles away to the First Avenue Shelter, which saves Springfield money on transport and shel-

tering expenses, and keeps down the stress level of the dogs.

Currently about 30 calls come in to Animal Control per week that Brian can do nothing about, because they concern cats. If WAG receives the grant money it has requested, those calls that are about stray and feral cats could be addressed by a TNR team of volunteers organized by Norma King of Action Mowers. Norma herself has been actively trapping for over a year now, but with the addition of a headquarters and grant funding, she and her team could bring in 100 cats per month, making a serious dent in the future numbers of free-roaming cats by adopting out as many tame cats and kittens as possible and stopping the breeding cycle of the ferals.

**AND WHAT'S IN IT FOR WAG?** Certainly this entire program falls well within our mission of helping the health and well-being of animals. But it also increases the numbers of animals coming into the clinic, which helps our bottom line. The WAG clinic is designed to be 95% self-sustaining provided we perform 24 surgeries per day. There are traditionally months of the year when we do not take in enough to meet those numbers. We know the cats, especially, are out there—they're just not coming in. But with Norma and her team on the job, we can be assured of plenty of patients to fill in the gaps. This is also why we don't require an appointment for trapped ferals—they fill in for the inevitable no-shows.



*....but I didn't think she would get outside....but I didn't think they could have*

Unfortunately, we see it at the clinic every day: people who, out of the goodness of their hearts, started feeding a single stray cat and have ended up with 15 (or more). Or, those who have brought home a kitten and never expected it to grow up.

*so many litters in a year....but I didn't think a brother and sister would have a*

One of the things that would have the most impact on the cat overpopulation problem is if people would just get that first cat spayed as soon as it is seen. Also, kittens can and should be spayed before they reach breeding age. Kittens can be spayed at two pounds, or eight weeks. Simply preventing that first litter, which unfortunately is the wake-up call for most people, could eliminate hundreds of unwanted cats.

*litter together....but I thought that cat would just go somewhere else....but I*

**THERE ARE A THOUSAND REASONS TO PUT OFF FIXING YOUR PET  
BUT THERE ARE MILLIONS OF REASONS IN SHELTERS AND ON  
THE STREETS TO DO IT TODAY!**

*didn't know she could get pregnant so young....but I had to pay the cable bill...*



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**AND MANY THANKS TO OUR 2013 BUSINESS DONORS**

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**Yes! I want to help the Willamette Animal Guild Spay/Neuter Project.**

Enclosed is my donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to : Willamette Animal Guild  
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Please charge my \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Debit Card

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Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

**Donations can also be made via PayPal at [www.wagwag.org](http://www.wagwag.org)**