

PET OF THE WEEK



Annie is a cuddly 3-year-old lap cat who likes to purr and play. The furry long-hair with gray brown and black hair was dropped off at the Broward Humane Society when someone in her former family began sneezing - even though the sneezing might not have been caused by cat hair. Annie has been passed over by many adoptive parents who chose to take home kittens. Annie is very affectionate and gets along with other felines.

To adopt Annie (ID# A A354621) or any other dog or cat, visit the Humane Society of Broward County at 2070 Griffin Rd., just west of Interstate 95 in Dania Beach.

The adoption fee is \$135 for puppies, \$100 for dogs and \$85 for one or two cats, and includes spaying or neutering, preliminary vaccinations, microchip and registration, and a 14-day healthcare plan. The adoption fee for rabbits is \$20. People older than 60 may qualify to have part of the adoption fee waived.

Adoption hours Adoption hours are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Call 954-989-3977, press 3 for adoptions, or visit the Broward Humane Society website at www.humanebroward.com.

Do you have a pet that needs to be spayed or neutered? Send an e-mail to the shelter's low-cost spay/neuter department at spayneuter@hsbroward.com or call the hot line at 954-463-7729.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida
NOTICE OF MEETINGS
Tuesday, July 21, 2009
12:00 p.m.
Notice of Executive (Closed Door) Session
 The purpose of the meetings is for:

ANIMAL WELFARE

Clinic offers low-cost pet care

*PETS, FROM 1

ating room inside is even more impressive.

The \$160,000 clinic is outfitted with \$20,000 in medical equipment, including an adjustable surgery table, anesthesia machines, a lighted prep area, a sink, refrigerator and a large area for animal carriers.

Its aim is to save lives and help reduce South Florida's exploding pet population. The clinic offers services like spaying and neutering at rates significantly lower than in established veterinary hospitals. The cost-cutting key is in volume, said Diane Fraser, founder of Stray Aid & Rescue.

"We can do it right and do it safely," Fraser said. The facility is staffed by a paid veterinarian, vet tech and a manager, she said.

For instance, spaying and neutering for small dogs will cost \$50; male cats, \$25; and female cats, \$40. The van isn't able to spay or neuter dogs over 20 pounds. Other services include rabies and booster vaccines, microchipping and testing for disease in both dogs and cats.

"If we combine all these things, we can cut down on the number of animals that are euthanized at clinics," Fraser said. "It was needed."

On Monday, the clinic's first day, customers included pet owners like college student Julie Camarda, who was bringing in her 1-year-old Maltese, Pepper, to be neutered. "It was \$50 instead of \$270," the price she was quoted at a private veterinarian. "I'm a college student, so this is affordable."

John and Chris Auld of Southwest Ranches brought in a feral female kitten and a male kitten Yoda to be spayed and neutered. "They did a great job," said Chris Auld, and especially welcome for people picking up stray cats, she said.

Yoda was in a litter of kittens found by Weston Home Depot staffers and the Aulds decided to take him home. "The kittens weren't weened off their mother - I fed him with a baby bottle. We fell in love with him, but there are so many stray cats out there."

Kelly Prince of Deerfield Beach, also at the clinic on



PHOTOS BY R.C. WHITE/FOR THE MIAMI HERALD

OPEN FOR BUSINESS: Cindy Treppard, above, signs out one of the many humane cages to try to catch feral cats. Pepper, below, a year-old Maltese, was one of the mobile veterinary clinic's first patients.

Monday, said she had been planning to neuter Otto, her 3-year-old Schipperke but it was too expensive. "It was difficult, but \$50 is affordable. I'm sure a lot of people can use this service."

Given the tough economic situation, "the demand for low-cost services is significantly greater," said Christopher Agostino, executive director of the Humane Society of Broward County, which receives about 400 calls a week for appointments at its mobile unit, which offers low-cost spay and neutering in addition to adoptions.

The Humane Society spays and neuters about 16,000 animals a year, aside from the 10,000 adopted yearly.

"With the severe [pet] overpopulation we deal with in our community it isn't a problem any one organization can embrace or overcome," Agostino said. "We're thrilled to have their participation."

Stray Aid and the Clydey Foundation paired up in 2008 and worked relentlessly to raise money for the project by soliciting benefactors, sending out mailings and holding yard sales, Fraser said. The rolling clinic is the end result.

Pet owners don't have to qualify financially to use the clinic, either, or even live in Broward County, Fraser said. "Anyone is eligible," she said.



Spay/Neuter Clinic

- **What:** The Spay/Neuter Clinic & Community Outreach Center.
- **Where:** At the National Guard Armory, 400 SW 24th St., Fort Lauderdale.
- **Appointments:** The clinic will be open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Pet owners need to make appointments ahead of time, which can be scheduled through Stray Aid's website at www.strayaid.org or by calling 954-816-0799.
- **Information:** For more information on The Clydey Foundation, go to <http://theclydeyfoundation.org/>.
- **FYI:** For information or to make an appointment for spaying and neutering through the Humane Society of Broward County, call 954-463-7729 or spayneuter@hsbroward.com.

Limousine