

**TOWN OF  
APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

**AGENDA MATTER**

**Subject Item:**

**SPAY DAY 2008**

**Summary Statement:**

Spay Day USA is America's first and only national day of action to promote the spaying or neutering of pets. During Spay Day USA, veterinarians and their staff, animal welfare professionals, business owners, and citizens join forces nationwide to provide spay/neuter services and to promote spay/neuter as an essential component of good pet health care, as well as an effective and humane means of decreasing the euthanasia of homeless animals in shelters. [Source: HSUS]

In support of the nationally recognized Spay Day 2008, staff is proposing that the Town of Apple Valley Shelter offer a variety of promotions from February 13, 2008 through February 29, 2008. Staff is proposing a "special" on cat spay/neuters and all animal microchips. Our current adoption fee for a cat is \$35.00 without a microchip. The special would be to include a microchip with every cat adoption during the recognized Spay Day program. The goal of microchipping cats is to increase the number of cats returned to their owner when they end up at the shelter. Cats are not required to be licensed and many are brought into the shelter without identification tags.

(Continued)

**Recommended Action:**

1. Authorize a free microchip with every cat adoption from February 13, 2008 through February 29, 2008.
2. Authorize a \$35 spay/neuter vouchers along with a microchip.
3. Authorize a reduced fee microchip of \$15 for all animals provided the owner brings in proof of a spay/neuter to the shelter from February 13, 2008 through February 29, 2008.

**Proposed by:** Gina M. Whiteside, Director of Municipal Services Item Number \_\_\_\_\_

**T. M. Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Budgeted Item**  Yes  No  N/A

### **(Spay Day 2008 Continued)**

Staff is also proposing a \$35 spay/neuter/microchip voucher for cats. The voucher would be issued to cat owners that bring their unaltered cat to the shelter to have the microchip inserted. Vouchers would then be redeemed at participating veterinarian clinics.

Finally, staff is proposing a reduced fee microchip for all animals that have been previously spayed or neutered. Currently, the Town of Apple Valley Shelter charges \$20 for microchipping any animal. The animal microchip special would be to offer a reduced fee of \$15 for microchipping from February 13<sup>th</sup> through February 29<sup>th</sup>. This special would be offered to any cat/dog owner that brought in proof that their animal was spayed or neutered. Microchipping is already included with the adoption of any dog from the shelter.

The proposed incentives will encourage pet owners to spay and neuter their animals. Altering pets through spay/neuter surgery helps prevent the unwanted birth of animals that would be difficult to place into good homes. Sadly, each year more than 15 million dogs and cats are killed in the US because of overpopulation.