



*Celebrating  
20 Years*

W O R

**1.5 MILLION+  
PETS SPAYED  
OR NEUTERED  
SINCE 1995**

**HOW SPAY/NEUTER HELPS YOU AND YOUR PET**

**D**oris Day Animal League staff grappled with the seemingly endless tide of animals being euthanized at U.S. shelters. It was 1995, and “we knew we had to do something to help,” then-executive director Holly Hazard (now an HSUS senior vice president) would recount years later. An idea was born: Christen the last Tuesday of February Spay Day USA, and galvanize shelters, rescues, and advocates to broadcast the benefits of spay/neuter and offer low-cost surgeries.

Today, thanks to innovative shelter programs and campaigns like Spay Day, shelter euthanasia is down dramatically (from as high as 20 million in the 1970s). World Spay Day is now a program of The HSUS, which joined forces with DDAL in 2006, and HSI. Events—600+ last year—have been held in 46 countries, and the focus now includes rabbits. “It’s truly a dream come true,” says actress and DDAL founder Doris Day, “but we still have lots to do.”



**YOU GAIN EXTRA YEARS  
TO SPEND TOGETHER**

Spay/neuter reduces breeding-related health risks such as reproductive cancer. It can add years to your pet’s life, meaning lots of extra toy tossing, treat sharing, and couch cuddling in your future.

**YOU GAIN A BETTER,  
HAPPIER COMPANION**

Spay/neuter ends females’ heat cycles (no more unwanted male suitors). It reduces roaming and pets’ chances of being hit by cars. Neutering resolves most territorial urine marking issues and means no more humping everything in sight.

*Did you know?*

**Spay/neuter is affordable.** Find low-cost services at [worldspayday.org](http://worldspayday.org).



**Rabbits can be spayed or neutered.**

They reproduce quickly and often end up in shelters. Spay/neuter prevents euthanasia and improves their health and behavior, too.



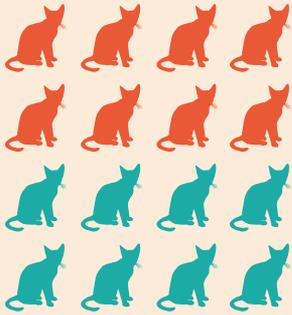
THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: LISA J. GODFREY/FOR THE HSUS; ANN ARBOR MILLER/FOR THE HSUS. OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT; LISA J. GODFREY/FOR THE HSUS; COURTESY OF SEAN HAWKINS.

# LDSPAYDAY

Mark your calendars

TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 25

## HOW SPAY/NEUTER PREVENTS A NATIONAL TRAGEDY



**16,000** CATS AND DOGS  
ENTER U.S. SHELTERS DAILY  
**BUT ONLY HALF**  
FIND LIFELONG HOMES

Every  
**10 SECONDS**  
A CAT OR DOG IS  
PUT DOWN IN  
A U.S. SHELTER

Even if you think you have good homes lined up for your pet's puppies or kittens, they may still end up at a shelter competing for adoption with other homeless animals. And since most people don't acquire pets through shelters or rescues, only about half of shelter animals in the U.S. find a family. The rest are euthanized—2.7 million healthy and treatable cats and dogs per year.

*Do it early.* 🐾

Your pet can be spayed or neutered at 2 months and 2 pounds.

and

*Spay/neuter is a common procedure.*

Your pet should be able to walk out of the vet's office.

*More facts:*

- Females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier
- Neutering won't change a pet's personality
- Spay/neuter doesn't lead to weight gain

Did you know?

## "A Profound Impact"

For the first Spay Day in 1995, the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program in Texas debuted "Neuter Scooter for a Nickel": using mobile clinics to alter male cats for 5 cents. "You realize what a profound impact you're having on dog and cat overpopulation, just with that single day's effort," remembers Sean Hawkins (shown at right), who this year will help the SPCA of Central Florida roll out a Zeuterin event (neutering via injection) near Orlando. Events aren't limited to surgeries; some organizers raise money while others raise awareness (in venues as unexpected as a Mardi Gras float). "It's really only limited by people's imagination and resources," says HSUS senior project manager Vicki Stevens.



*Together we can help save lives.*

Spay/neuter your pet and help us spread the word. Join us on World Spay Day and throughout the year at [worldspayday.org](http://worldspayday.org).

