

Mobile spay and neuter clinic stops in Logan County

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The back of a van parked in an empty lot in front of a vacant building typically is not a place pet owners would have their animals spayed or neutered, but for 15 area pet owners Thursday, the location was a perfect opportunity to help curb the county's growing pet population.

A mobile spay and neuter clinic parked in a lot along south Main street across from Tractor Supply Company spent the afternoon servicing pet owners who pre-registered to have their animals spayed or neutered.

The van was sponsored by Columbus Dog Connection, an animal clinic based in Franklin County.

Kellie DiFrischia founded CDC 13 years ago. Without a physical location, the organization hosted a Web site that served as an aggregator of reputable animal shelters in central Ohio. It since has expanded and now includes a physical location near the Columbus airport on the city's east side.

The mobile spay and neuter clinic launched last month.

"This is only the second trip the mobile clinic has made," said Bellefontaine resident Marsha Cloninger, who volunteers with CDC to coordinate the van's stops in Logan County. "We plan to host another stop on July 26 and hope eventually this will become a monthly occurrence."



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ABOVE: About 15 dogs and cats were spayed and neutered Thursday aboard this mobile clinic that parked across from Tractor Supply Company along south Main Street. **RIGHT:** Veterinarian Jayme Beinlich neuters a one-year-old springer spaniel aboard the mobile spay and neuter clinic

The mobile clinic made its inaugural stop last month in Morgan County, where it serviced about 20 cats and dogs, according to the clinic's veterinarian, Jayme Beinlich.

"We're a self-contained, full-service clinic on wheels," she said, while neutering a one-year-old, full-blooded springer spaniel. "We're providing a necessary service, basic vaccinations along with spay and neuter services.

"We're not trying to replace local vets," Ms. Beinlich continued. "We're trying to hit people with this service that, for whatever reason, wouldn't get their pet spayed or neutered."

Mrs. Cloninger says spay and neuter services are an integral part of quelling pet populations that have run rampant for many years.

"We're working hard now so that in a few years this work won't be necessary," she said.

"Our goal is to completely eliminate animal homelessness in Logan County and across Ohio.

"By spaying and neutering these animals, we're taking a proactive approach toward reaching that goal."

Lori Plummer, executive director for the Humane Society Serving Logan County, 2521 N. U.S. 68, said that overpopulation is a growing problem, adding that the shelter takes in between 35 and 40 dogs each month.

"A lack of spay and neuter resources is one big contributing factor to growing pet populations," she said. "Two unaltered cats could literally be responsible for a thousand or more cats in their lifetime.

"Spay and neuter services for domestic pets will ultimately lead to a healthier animal."

The Humane Society spays



and neuters each animal it takes in. The agency also shuttles animals to an outreach shelter in Columbus for pet owners who wish to spay or neuter their animal.

"I want this van to be a service that county residents can trust to get their animal spayed or neutered if they haven't already," said Mrs. Cloninger.

"We have well-trained people performing the procedure in

a clean, sterile environment."

Standard spay and neuter costs apply for the mobile service.

Spay and neuter services for dogs range anywhere between \$40 and \$100 depending on the size of the animal. Cats cost \$45 to spay and \$35 to neuter.

More information on the CDC is available online, www.columbusdogconnection.com.