

Cute Pomeranian Charlene

“Over 60,000 dogs can be born from just one female and her offspring in seven years”

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

KATY'S ANSWER TO PET OVERPOPULATION

Local Organization Steps Up to Help

A new organization in the Katy area takes this astounding statistic seriously and is trying to do something about it. The Mickey Hagey Center hopes to decrease the number of animals put to death this year in Houston area animal shelters by offering low cost pet sterilizations. Houston leads the country in the numbers of dogs and cats euthanized, with that number being in excess of 80,000 animals per year.

The purpose of the Mickey Hagey Center is to sterilize, or spay and neuter, animals...and they are preparing to do this at the rate of around 50 per day.

According to Renee Bazan, DVM and Chief of Staff of the center, spayed or neutered pets may live longer healthier lives by reducing the incidence of some cancers and helping to keep pets at home, instead of wandering in search of a mate. “We do not treat sick or injured animals,” Dr. Bazan said. “We want all of our clients to have an established relationship with a private practice veterinarian for the medical care of their pet.”



Too Many Animals Destroyed

The center's sponsor, Saving Animals Across Borders (SAAB), aims to make high-quality animal sterilization affordable throughout this area. President and founder Sean Hawkins says the center was opened to increase the number of dogs and cats sterilized, thereby increasing the number of homeless animals adopted from Houston's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC), so fewer animals will have to be destroyed.

Caring Veterinarians



The pets are calmed and anesthetized under hospital-like conditions, then placed upon a surgical table and restrained. All who enter the operating room must don surgical masks. The surgery is carefully performed by the veterinarians. After the surgery, they are observed by the vets and other staff members while they recover and gain conscience. The surgical procedure takes about ten minutes. The animals can be taken home the same date as the surgery.

An Enormous Undertaking

The Mickey Hagey Center opened in its temporary quarters late last year. The staff has high hopes to see it expand and serve more people and their pets. This Katy area center is the first of what is expected to be many of its type in the Greater Houston Area, said Founder Hawkins. "The importance of this center is it is the



About 20 tons of destroyed dogs and cats are disposed of each week from Houston area shelters

With 100,000 animals in our area being euthanized each year due to pet over population – please spay or neuter your pets today

Mickey Hagey Center also offers a Wellness Clinic

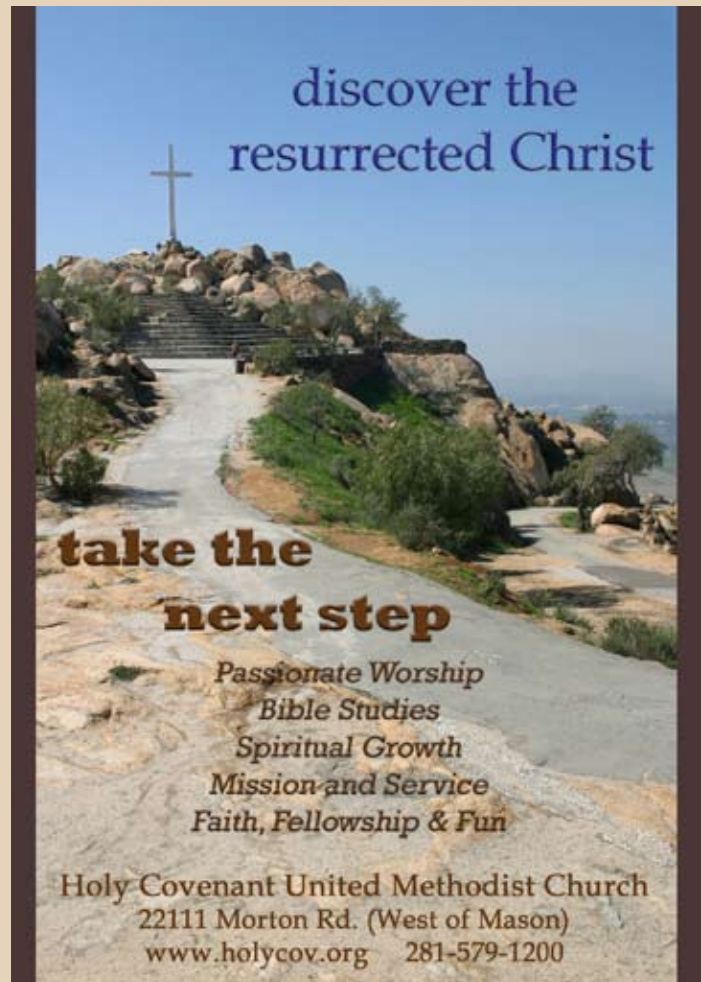
In addition to spaying and neutering, the center also will check over and give needed shots to family pets at a reasonable cost... much lower than at most clinics. A chart accompanying this story shows representative costs of many procedures. There is a \$15 office visit charge for these services.

Sterilization procedures are available by appointment only. Appointments can be arranged by calling 281-578-0252. Many instructions can be obtained for both before and after surgery by



Dr. Kathy Davis with one of the cute little patients at Mickey Hagey

first time in American history that an entire city (Houston) has put together a plan to end dog and cat overpopulation," Hawkins commented. Della Maddalena, the vice president of Pet Smart Charities, said that organization is investing \$5.5 million in Texas to make this happen. As a nonprofit organization, the center depends upon donations for survival.



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visiting the center's web site at: www.savinganimals.org, then clicking on "US Programs" and "Houston". You will save time at the clinic by following the preoperative instructions and completing the admitting forms prior to arrival.

Before the surgery even begins, the Veterinarians and animal health technicians evaluate the general health of the animals.

Accepting Donations of All Kinds

Because the Mickey Hagey Center is a nonprofit organization, they are requesting donations of supplies. Dr. Bazan asked locals to consider donating items such as liquid laundry soap and bleach, large towels and blankets, pillow cases, tall trash bags, office supplies, such as copy paper, as well as paper towels and toilet paper.

The center is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Wellness Clinic is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

If you want to help the Center, you can make a tax deductible donation to SAAB, 17575 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77094. **KM**

LEE BUTLER is a former reporter in Houston and throughout the country. He is now retired, lives in Katy, and has five grown sons.



WELLNESS CLINIC PRICE SCHEDULE

(Surgical procedures include all postoperative pain medication)

Dog Neuter (0-39 lbs.)	\$40.00
Dog Spay (0-39 lbs.)	\$40.00
Dog Neuter/Spay (40+ lbs.)	\$50.00
Cat Neuter	\$25.00
Cat Spay	\$40.00
Office Visit	\$15.00
Professional Services	\$5.00 - \$15.00
Vaccinations	\$12.00 - \$18.00 each
Service Packages	\$30.00 - \$40.00
Laboratory Tests	\$12.00 - \$25.00



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