



Companion Animal Management Pledge

5 Points

IMPORTANT NOTE: This action will retire on **December 31, 2022**. For municipalities currently approved for this action, the points will remain in your application until the action expires.

Companion Animal Management aims to promote and facilitate a municipal environment of responsible and considerate ownership of dogs and cats and addresses the following: the well-being of the community, including animals as well as people; costs of animal control; wildlife and environmental protection; governance and community relations.

Municipalities are responsible for addressing issues such as public health, public safety, and use of public resources as they relate to pet ownership. The field of animal services operates within a complex and changing environment that requires an understanding of animal behavior, human behavior, and community behavior.

The development of a Companion Animal Management Plan engages the community by involving all stakeholders, and through outreach and marketing, guiding them to modify their behavior to support the municipality's responsible pet ownership goals, which are likely to include:

- Promoting socially responsible pet ownership through community engagement, outreach, and marketing.
- Creating pet-friendly communities where pet nuisance is minimized.
- Improving the care and protection of pet animals in the community.
- Decreasing relinquishment and abandonment of cats and dogs and improving re-homing rates.
- Reducing dog fights and dog bites.
- Increasing the numbers of canine good citizens.
- Reducing the number of dogs and cats euthanized in New Jersey each year.
- Enabling the municipality to take a consistent approach to companion animal management issues throughout the municipality.
- Providing a strategic plan to support the activities of animal services within the municipality.
- Reducing public and environmental nuisance(s) caused by dogs and cats.
- Managing the population of dogs and cats (including encouraging neutering of dogs and cats).

A Companion Animal Management Plan is a tool for municipalities to establish humane, efficient, and effective solutions to companion animal (cat and dog) issues. As a first step in the process of creating a Companion Animal Management Plan, municipal leaders commit to key essential principles to promote responsible pet ownership, end animal cruelty, encourage innovative approaches to improve effectiveness and reduce costs of animal services, and minimize nuisance complaints about companion animals. This commitment is demonstrated by adopting the Companion Animal Management Pledge.

Once the Pledge is adopted, the community can build upon that expressed intent by publicly soliciting residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to aid the development of a comprehensive plan.

Why is it important?

The well-being of humans and animals is inextricably linked and integral to human quality of life, mirroring the general health of a community as a whole. If animals are not taken into consideration within the scope of community sustainability, a community leaves itself vulnerable to human-animal and human-human conflict resulting from animal population issues and cruelty, and valuable community resources are wasted.

In contrast, fostering respect for and understanding of the relationships between animals, and people, and the benefits provided by these interactions is a critical step towards sustaining a community's quality of life over the long term.

Municipalities and local animal groups do not, on their own, have the capacity to solve many pet ownership problems. Problems concerning cats and dogs arise as a result of a failure on the part of humans and result in difficult situations for pet owners and community members alike, sometimes with dire consequences for those involved, both people and animals.

Specifically, the problem of abandoned and feral animals in New Jersey is significant. According to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' Office of Animal Welfare, animal impoundment facilities take in over 100,000 animals annually. Approximately 37% of these animals are euthanized, which equals about 3,000 animals euthanized each month.

Although a clear cause and effect relationship is not always easy to identify, problems concerning cats and dogs in the community are linked to a number of factors, including some or all of the following: impulse acquisition; lack of knowledge or resources to provide adequate care; change(s) in circumstances for owners; unforeseen animal behavioral issues; unforeseen animal or human health issues; unexpected financial circumstances; abandonment or cruelty.

Solutions include education and training; financial support; provision of temporary accommodation; veterinary intervention; legal intervention; social services intervention; municipal intervention.

Preparation of a Companion Animal Management Pledge is the first step in committing to address related issues for a better quality of life. The Companion Animal Management Plan can provide a fresh opportunity for municipalities and their animal control and public health divisions to engage with individual residents, not-for-profit organizations, local businesses, and other relevant stakeholders in a local effort to improve the community's relationship with animals and to ensure socially-responsible pet ownership. This process provides a chance to identify innovative solutions that are relevant to the municipality, appropriate to meet the challenges, and acceptable to stakeholders.

With a high rate of stakeholder participation, it should be possible to balance the concerns of everyone who is likely to be affected. The development of a plan with clearly defined outcomes will enable communities to track and monitor progress within their community and to see measurable results. Reporting the success and progress of the program will allow community members to witness their participation, contributing to a community-wide movement.

Who should lead and be involved with this action?

You can develop a task force to adapt the model Pledge to reflect your community. The team can consist of stakeholders related to the effort, such as community planners, animal control officers, animal cruelty investigators, veterinarians, animal shelter staff, animal advocacy and service groups, and other relevant community stakeholders, such as businesses, residents, and social service organizations.

All levels of municipal government should be informed of the Companion Animal Management Pledge in order to appropriately adapt current responsibilities to be consistent with the Pledge provisions.

Timeframe

Depending on your town's process for adopting the Pledge, it is likely to require one to two months' time to adapt the Pledge, present it, and adopt it.

Project costs and resource needs

While dedicated time from a municipal staff person or department is necessary to initiate and oversee the development of a Companion Animal Management Pledge, the activity is unlikely to incur significant costs.

What to do and how to do it ("How to")

Below we have listed the requirements for earning points for this action.

1. The Pledge must be officially adopted and distributed to appropriate municipal personnel prior to or during the year you are applying for certification.
2. While the Pledge may be adapted to your municipality's unique conditions, the core provisions of the

model must be addressed. These include the intent to treat companion animals humanely, respectfully, and responsibly, as well as the items listed in the “What to Do” section of the model Municipal Pledge. At a minimum, the adopted Pledge must be distributed to Planning and Zoning Board members, as well as to the Health Department, Parks Department, Animal Control officers, and the Environmental Commission with a memo explaining expectations for its use and a list of the staff and their affiliations that are receiving the memo.

We have provided extensive guidance and recommendations for implementing the action. You do not need to follow this guidance exactly as long as your final product meets the requirements.

1. Form a task force to organize and lead the Companion Animal Management effort. The purpose of the Task Force is to identify local issues and key stakeholders, to set goals, and to measure and evaluate progress. The Task Force should engage as many stakeholder groups as possible, as well as the public and local media.
2. Select a leader to coordinate and serve as a point person for the action. The leader should have the ability to interface with municipal departments, have the support of the governing body, and know how to conduct public outreach.
3. Draft and introduce the Pledge of Municipal Support for Responsible Pet Ownership in the Community and provide for a public discussion period.
4. The Pledge should be officially adopted by the governing body and distributed to relevant municipal departments (Health Department, Animal Control, Parks Department, Planning and Zoning Board(s), Environmental Commission) with a memo explaining expectations for its use. The Pledge can be adapted as necessary from the following template:

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT FOR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY Example Pledge

RECOGNIZING that cats and dogs are an integral and valuable part of all communities, and contribute to the well-being of humans, whether as companions, service animals, or therapy pets, and

UNDERSTANDING that municipalities have an important role in ensuring the well-being of animals while balancing the needs of pet owners and non-pet owners.

WHEREAS legislators and municipal officials report that the number of calls from citizens about animal related issues rival any other issue(s);

WHEREAS there are approximately 2.2 million owned dogs and 2.5 million owned cats in New Jersey;

WHEREAS New Jersey was the first state in the nation to develop an innovative state-wide spay/neuter program and all proceeds from the sale of Animal Friendly License Plates are used to reimburse participating veterinarians for spaying and neutering surgeries;

WHEREAS State responsibility for promoting responsible pet care and ensuring that pets do not suffer due to abuse, neglect, or lack of proper care in kennels, pet shops, shelters, and pounds (animal facilities) is vested in the Office of Animal Welfare within the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services;

WHEREAS The New Jersey Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) and municipal Animal Cruelty Investigators (ACIs) are responsible for investigating and acting as officers for the detection, apprehension, and arrest of offenders against the animal cruelty laws;

WHEREAS New Jersey mandates training requirements for animal control officers and Animal Cruelty Investigators;

WHEREAS New Jersey impounds over 100,000 animals per year in animal shelters and impoundment facilities;

WHEREAS approximately 37% of the animals that enter New Jersey’s impoundment facilities are euthanized, at a rate of around 3000 every month;

WHEREAS free-roaming unvaccinated cats and dogs present a potential health threat to humans through the spread of such zoonotic diseases as rabies, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, roundworms, animal bites, and environmental contamination from animal feces;

WHEREAS stray and unwanted pets place an enormous financial burden on municipalities and non-profit humane agencies organized to care for these animals; (To calculate an average per animal cost for your municipality, divide the total shelter expenditures - municipal animal control and shelter expenses -by the total number of animals served per year);;

WHEREAS it is more humane and cost-effective to reduce the number of unwanted animals than it is to impound and euthanize unwanted or unclaimed dogs and cats;

WHEREAS all dogs are required to be licensed in the municipality where they are housed and the majority of municipalities also require licensure of cats. (Current vaccination against rabies is a pre-requisite to licensure);

WHEREAS all municipalities are required to canvass their residents to locate unlicensed dogs;

NOW THEREFORE, we the municipality of _____, resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal responsibilities with the intent of making _____ a truly sustainable community.

It is our intent to do our utmost, within the bounds of our jurisdiction, to ensure that companion animals are treated humanely, respectfully, and responsibly through public education and through exercise of powers vested within New Jersey municipalities as follows:

Authority of municipalities:

Pursuant to New Jersey Statutes, all municipalities must appoint a certified animal control officer who shall be responsible for animal control within the jurisdiction of the municipality, including providing emergency veterinary care for injured stray animals and coverage outside of normal working hours;

The municipality in which an animal facility is located is responsible for issuing the license for that facility to operate;

The NJ Vicious Dog Law establishes a state-wide standard for municipalities to effectively address situations of vicious or potentially dangerous dogs, regardless of breed;

The Animal Population Control Program provides for low-cost spaying and neutering for pet owners adopting dogs and cats from New Jersey shelters, pounds, and animal adoption referral agencies and pet owners participating in one of several Public Assistance Programs.

The Municipality pledges to:

- Enforce all animal and rabies control statutes and regulations, including the requirement to pick up and impound all stray dogs and cats, excepting stray and feral cats in managed TNR programs.
- Work to improve the enforcement of animal cruelty statutes.
- Educate our community, including school children, about their responsibilities towards the pet animals they chose to keep.
- Institute, as appropriate, cat licensing ordinances and increase the percentage of licensed dogs and cats through ease of licensing and licensing enforcement measures.
- Identify and work to implement best practices to prevent unwanted breeding through effective animal control, availability of low-cost pet spaying and neutering services, public education, and pet-friendly rental and senior housing.
- Identify alternatives to euthanasia of adoptable companion animals, including utilizing foster homes, adoption networks and providing remedial behavior training services to existing and future owners.
- Assist in identifying resources to improve the conditions and increase the capacity of animal shelters and impoundment facilities and animal control services.

Agenda and date voted : xx/xx/20xx

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Township Committee on xx/xx/20xx

1. Increasing compliance and income from licensing can underwrite the costs of implementing the plan. Identify the most significant priority issues for your municipality in terms of companion animals. These issues may include the humane and effective reduction of feral cat populations; promoting spay/neuter efforts; providing recreational opportunities (e.g. dog parks); setting priorities related to animal control and cruelty investigation; providing training, etc. Working within the guidelines provided below, develop a comprehensive companion animal plan and work to implement actions related to at least one of the priorities in your municipality.

What to submit to earn points for this action

In order to earn points, your submission must meet the following standards:

1. The Pledge must be officially adopted and distributed to appropriate municipal personnel prior to or during the year you are applying for certification.
2. While the Pledge may be adapted to your municipality's unique conditions, the core provisions of the model must be addressed. These include the intent to treat companion animals humanely, respectfully, and responsibly, as well as the items listed in the "What to Do" section of the model Municipal Pledge. The adopted Pledge must, at a minimum, be distributed to Planning and Zoning Board members, as well as to the Health Department, Parks Department, Animal Control officers, and Environmental Commission with a memo explaining expectations for its use, and a list of the staff and their affiliations that are receiving the memo.

Submit the following documentation to verify the action was completed to the above standards. (Log in to the password protected webpage where you submit your online application for certification to write in the text box and upload documents).

In the text box, please provide a short narrative (300 word max) to summarize what was accomplished and the general steps taken to accomplish it.

- Upload: Officially adopted copy of the Companion Animal Management Pledge. Attach to that file a memo introducing the Pledge and outlining expectations for the municipal staff regarding implementation. Please include the list of staff receiving the memo as well as their affiliations.

Resubmission Requirements

To resubmit for points under this action, the applicant has two options. One option is for the applicant to demonstrate progress has been made toward completing the Companion Animal Management Plan action. This can include a copy of the plan. If progress has not been made toward this action, it should be noted in the narrative what is preventing this process from moving forward.

The second option is to provide a summary of activities (at least two or more) that have been undertaken by the municipality that align with the goals in the pledge from within 2.5 years of the June submission deadline. Promotional materials are encouraged.

Approved Action Expiration Date

Approved actions will be set to expire 2.5 years from the date of the officially adopted copy of the pledge and memo distributed.

If resubmitting for this action, approved actions will be set to expire 2.5 years from the companion animal management plan and/or the date of the most recent activity.

IMPORTANT NOTES: You can upload up to six separate documents for each action. Please excerpt relevant information from large documents. Please remember that your submissions will be viewable by the public as part of your certified report.

Spotlight: What New Jersey towns are doing

In December 2010, Paterson adopted the Companion Animal Management Pledge.

Resources

Calgary Model of Animal Services;

The City of Calgary's Animal & Bylaw Services' animal programs are considered to be some of the most successful programs on the continent. This is based on statistics such as Calgary's 88% return-to-owner rate for dogs and a 55% return to owner rate for cats which results in their low dog and cat euthanasia rates. These successes, along with a steady decrease in the number of aggressive dog incidents, have all been accomplished without specific breed banning or regulating the number of dogs and cats that citizens are allowed to own. Calgary's animal programs are also self-funding with no tax supported dollars used to develop and provide the services. [Calgary Model of Animal Services](#)

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services, Office of Animal Welfare

The Office of Animal Welfare is dedicated to promoting and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of companion animals in the state of New Jersey. Information is available on dog licensing, animal control, animal facility inspection, feral cats, animal cruelty, and more. <http://www.state.nj.us/health/animalwelfare/index.shtml>

The New South Wales (Australia) Department of Local Government has produced a Guide to Preparing Strategic Companion Animals' Management Plans. Their material has been invaluable in the preparation of this action. [Download the PDF](#)

Funding Resources

American Humane

<http://www.americanhumane.org/program/grants-awards/>

a. Foreclosure Pets Grant

Grant monies are available based on resources and the generosity of our donors and are awarded to qualifying American Humane member shelters. Grant monies must be used to offset expenses already incurred in providing direct care to animals that have been impacted by a foreclosure situation.

<http://www.americanhumane.org/protecting-animals/shelter-professionals/grants/foreclosure-pets/>

b. Meacham Foundation Memorial Grants

The Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant was established to provide financial assistance to agencies for shelter expansion or improvements. Grant money must be used to increase and/or improve the quality of care given to animals. Grants may be awarded in any amount up to \$4,000.

<http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/professional-resources/for-shelter-professionals/grant-programs/meacham-foundation.html>

c. Second Chance Fund

The Second Chance Fund is one way American Humane works to support member organizations in their vital work. By providing financial assistance, in select cases, to animal welfare organizations responsible for the temporary care of animals as they are prepared for adoption into permanent, loving homes, the program provides animal victims of abuse or neglect with a second chance at life.

<http://www.americanhumane.org/protecting-animals/shelter-professionals/grants/second-chance-fund/>

Animal Welfare Trust

The Animal Welfare Trust's priorities include humane education, farm animal welfare, and vegetarianism. General organizational funding will be considered, but preference is given to well-defined projects with clear goals and objectives. Capital projects are not considered. Grants generally range from \$2500 - \$20,000.

<http://foundationcenter.org/grantmaker/awt/prog.html>

ASPCA

The ASPCA offers grants in the range of \$500 - \$5000 for project costs associated with disaster recovery and preparedness, humane education programs, and costs associated with large seizures of animals. There is also a general shelter outreach grant program. <http://aspca.org/grants>

The Bernice Barbour Foundation

The Bernice Barbour Foundation was established in 1986 by the late Bernice Wall Barbour, a lifelong resident of New Jersey. The 2009 funding awards included projects in the areas of spay/neuter, feral cats, and animal behavior. <http://www.bernicebarbour.org/>

Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation

The Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation offers grants in the range of \$1,000 - \$10,000 for animals in domestic pet programs including animal welfare organizations, pet rescue and rehabilitation organizations, and therapeutic and humane education pet programs. <http://www.buildabear.com/shopping/contents/content.jsp?catId=400002&id=700010>

Feeding Pets of the Homeless

Feeding Pets of the Homeless provides pet food and veterinary care to the companion animals of the less fortunate in communities around the United States. Grants are awarded to licensed veterinarians in the state in which services will be rendered, to 501(c)(3) organizations, or to a branch of state or local government.
<http://www.petsofthehomeless.org/what-we-do/grant-program.html>

Maddie's Fund

Maddie's Fund® grants are designed to help build a no-kill nation so that all shelter dogs and cats can be guaranteed a loving home. Maddie's Fund currently offers fifteen different kinds of grants, ranging in size from \$500 marketing awards to community collaborative grants worth millions of dollars. Applications are accepted year round – there are no deadlines. http://www.maddies.org/grant/fund_guide.html

New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association (NJVMA) Teaching Grants Program

The NJVMA has commissioned a teaching guide with the goal of encouraging New Jersey middle grade teachers to introduce the idea of responsible pet ownership in the classroom, and through the classroom into the community. Funding is offered up to a maximum of \$750 per grantee for the purchase of supplies needed to carry out the exercises described in the teaching guide or expenses incurred for similar exercises.

<http://www.njvma.org/grants/default.asp>

PetCo Foundation

The PETCO Foundation dedicates its programs to serving their Four Rs - Reduce, Rescue, Rehabilitate, Rejoice. Their grants strive to achieve their mission by creating responsible pet owners, reducing the number of animals euthanized, rescuing animals in crisis, and rehabilitating undesirable behaviors in pets to keep them in loving homes. Applications from organizations that are able to enlist the support of their local PETCO store receive higher priority for consideration than those that do not have a relationship with their local store. <http://www.petco.com/Content/Content.aspx?PC=welfareapplication&Nav=384>

PetSmart Charities

PetSmart Charities has several funding opportunities available, including a spay/neuter clinic equipment grants program, a targeted spay/neuter program, and a free-roaming cat program.

<http://www.petsmartcharities.org/grants/>

Planet Dog Foundation

The Planet Dog Foundation offers funding nationwide to promote and financially support service-oriented canine programs such as assistance dogs, therapy dogs, search and rescue programs or police, fire, and military dogs. Cash grants (up to \$10,000), product donations, and in-kind support are offered.

<http://www.planetdogfoundation.org/about.aspx>

William & Charlotte Parks Foundation for Animal Welfare

The Parks Foundation for Animal Welfare offers grants to organizational or institutional projects, grassroots activities, or academic studies that promise to advance animal welfare in areas such as: best practices in companion animal care, including shelter medicine projects and services, conferences, capital needs for animal shelters, humane education, and prevention of cruelty or violence. Awards may also be made for specific projects that benefit animals or for general operating expenses.

<http://www.parksfoundation.org/index.html>

Municipal Resources

Animal Welfare Task Force Report, Submitted to New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey, Attorney General Peter C. Harvey, Commissioner Clifton R. Lacy, November 2004.

<http://www.state.nj.us/animalwelfare/taskforcereport.pdf>

New Jersey Department of Agriculture - Emergency Preparedness for Animals

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is the state agency responsible for animals in disasters. NJDA coordinates animal information and resources during disasters. NJDA also has the responsibility to develop state-wide plans and procedures regarding animals and to meet with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that animals are incorporated into disaster planning and response.

http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/prog/emergency_preparedness.html

People, Pets & Planning: Living in a Healthy Community – Symposium

(An Australian example)

<http://www.petnet.com.au/sites/default/files/PIAS - People Pets and Planning.pdf>

Public Open Space and Dogs: A Design and Management Guide for Space Professionals

(an Australian example)

<http://www.petnet.com.au/sites/default/files/PIAS - public open space and dogs.pdf>

Renting with Pets: Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) Online Resource for Rental Managers and Pet Owners

HSUS offers information, articles, and brochures on topics that include: Finding Animal-Friendly Rental Housing, How a Pets-Allowed Policy can Work for Rental Managers, Opening Doors (and Minds) to Pets, and Renting with Pets Booklets. http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/renting_with_pets.html

Animal Welfare Resources

Animal Sheltering.org (for shelter professionals)

An online (and print) publication by the Humane Society of the United States, targeted toward animal shelter professionals that offers a wide range of resources. <http://www.animalsheltering.org/>

Animal Welfare Federation of New Jersey maintains a comprehensive web site of past and pending state legislation regarding shelter regulations and animal cruelty laws. The site is also a resource hub of educational opportunities for animal control officers and animal cruelty investigators, as well as news regarding pet-related issues (spay/neuter, feral cats). <http://www.awfnj.org/>

Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV)

The ASV is a national organization working to “advance the practice of shelter medicine and to act as a resource for the dissemination of information and the support of ongoing study of veterinary medicine in a shelter environment.” They have recently produced the first comprehensive shelter standards document.

<http://www.sheltervet.org/about/shelter-standards/>

<http://www.sheltervet.org/>

Animal Control Resources

Dog Bite Law

This is a non-commercial, extensive resource for Animal Control Officers, dog bite victims, dog owners, parents, and others needing to learn about the legal rights of victims, and other aspects of the dog bite epidemic. According to the site, dog bite losses exceed \$1 billion per year nationally, with over \$300 million paid by homeowners insurance. <http://www.dogbitelaw.com/>

National Animal Control Association (NACA)

NACA's mission is to define and promote professionalism in the animal protection, care, and humane law enforcement field by providing quality services, education, training, and support. A range of resources and information about training opportunities is available at this site. <http://www.nacanet.org/>

New Jersey Animal Control Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

These FAQs provide clarification on animal control requirements in New Jersey and address the most common questions. It is intended to serve as an aid to local health departments and municipal governments throughout the State in meeting their animal control requirements. <http://www.state.nj.us/health/animalwelfare/faqs.shtml>

New Jersey Certified Animal Control Officers Association

This website provides information to Animal Control Officers and Animal Cruelty Investigators, and helps the

residents of New Jersey understand the diverse duties and responsibilities of those professions.
<http://www.njcacoa.org/>

The New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA)

The NJSPCA is a non-profit organization providing humane law enforcement and animal cruelty investigation. Their website includes information on topics including NJ Animal Welfare statutes, dog fighting, evacuation tips, and more. <http://njspca.org/about-njspca-statutes.htm>

Community & Business Resources

Animal Assisted Therapy AAT and Animal Assisted Activities

This website provides information about the benefits of Animal-Assisted Therapy and activities. Phil Arkow, who teaches the Survey and Independent Study courses on Animal-Assisted Therapy and Animal-Assisted Activities at Camden County College in Blackwood, NJ, writes "Companion animals are being introduced into the therapeutic regimens of many health care institutions: nursing homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, psychiatric institutions and others. Therapeutic riding programs improve the motor skills and coordination of the physically challenged. Pets help inmates in correctional facilities and juvenile offenders to learn empathy and compassion." <http://www.animaltherapy.net/>

Community Wildlife Habitat Program

<https://www.nwf.org/CommunityWildlifeHabitat/>

Frequently Asked Questions about Pets and Foreclosed Homes

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/FAQs/Pages/Frequently-asked-questions-about-pets-and-foreclosed-homes.aspx>

Veterinary Resources

American Veterinary Medical Association

The AVMA website is an in-depth resource on a wide range of companion animal topics, including a section on public resources providing animal health brochures, disaster preparedness information, dog bite prevention, pet care, selecting a pet spaying and neutering, zoonotic diseases, and more. <http://www.avma.org/>

Animal Welfare Association

Located in Voorhees, NJ, the Animal Welfare Association operates a low-cost spay/neuter clinic that is open to all members of the public regardless of residence or income. http://www.awanj.org/site/PageServer?pagename=clinic_faq

East Coast New Jersey Spay Clinic

912 Hazlewood Dr., Toms River, New Jersey 08753, 732-929-9449

Clinic offering low-cost spaying and neutering.

The Neuter Commuter

This is a mobile, low-cost spay-neuter clinic based out of Passaic, NJ.
http://www.neutercommuter.org/who_are_we0.aspx

New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association (NJVMA)

The NJVMA website offers a wide range of educational and informational resources on companion animal care. The All Things Animal Center provides information on health, pet care, and behavioral topics, and there is an extensive list of articles on topics such as traveling with pets, Lyme disease, heartworm, pet first aid, nutrition basics for dogs and cats, etc. Grant and scholarship programs are available. <http://www.njvma.org>

People for Animals

Hillside, NJ, 908-964-6887

Low-cost spay/neuter clinic and pet rescue. New Jersey's largest spay/neuter clinic performing over 10,000 surgeries annually. <http://www.pfaonline.org/>

Spay / Neuter Resources

Monmouth County SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic

260 Wall St., Eatontown, NJ 07724, 732-542-3125

Provides low-cost spay/neuter services, vaccines, and flea products

<http://www.monmouthcountyspca.org/services.htm#clinic>

State of New Jersey Low Cost Spaying/Neutering Program

The program offers low-cost services to New Jersey resident owners of shelter-adopted pets, and to low-income individuals in the state. Information about eligibility can be found on the website.

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/spayneut.htm>