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Should the government help pay for spaying, neutering, and vaccinations for animals in shelters?

More and more animals in the past few years do not have homes or have been killed in animal shelters, and more than half that have been put in animal shelters and are eventually killed. Low adoption rates are the number one factor for animals in shelters now. The Humane Society of the United States notes that "today, shelters euthanize around 4 million animals, when there are around 135 million that have homes." But even some animals that have homes are not getting taken care of the way they should be, and so they are being sent to shelters. Every year millions of dogs and cats are rescued from the streets by animal control officers and private citizens, and brought to animal shelters (Humane). The consequences for expending so little energy on controlling the animal population are the animals' ability to reproduce quickly. Many of animals are commonly found on city streets and county roads, not having been spayed or neutered, and carrying rabies and other diseases. Choosing not to spay or neuter pets is causing the animal population to keep increasing. If the government could help pay for spaying, neutering, and vaccinations, animals would be kept off the streets and out of the shelters.

Many people now like to adopt to help keep at least some pets out of the shelters and pounds. The Humane Society of America notes that "decisions about adoption and euthanasia are based on the temperament and health of the animal, the space, and resources that are available to a proper animal care takers house." Most of the animal shelters do not have a set time limit for

holding an animal, which indicates when they are put down. 3 million cats are put down annually in the United States (Humane). 5 million cats and dogs are dumped annually. One fourth of animals these days don't have any luck for living. That's just like one fourth of the human population having no chance of living. Shelters with limited space and finite resources can't achieve the goal to have one no-kill shelter without high levels of community support (Humane). Shelters like to get as much help and support as they can, and try to get everyone to participate in the shelters and all over the world.

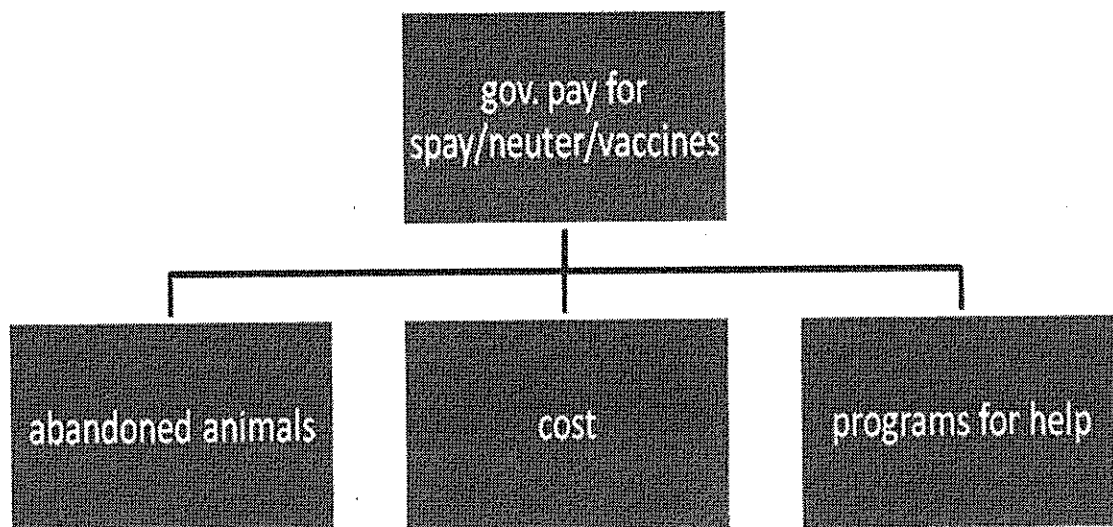
There's a service, SPAY/USA, which is a program of the North Shore Animal League of America. "It's a network of volunteers and veterinarians working together to popularize and facilitate spay/neuter services through a nationwide referral service" (North). This public service that they do is designed to end the pet overpopulation nationwide. "We send out information about our nearest vet or program, on a slip which costs nothing at all to get" (North). Also, they send out free coupons with no expiration date. "Our 7,000 veterinarians are among the best and the brightest of all the 30,000 small animals practitioners in the US" (North). Every shelter/service should have the best veterinarians that meet all the criteria's to help with the animals. "These veterinarians combine their surgery skills with public service" (North). They are aware that people do not alter their pets because of the high cost for the surgeries to be done. For many years vets were taught that animals were to be a year old to be spayed or neutered, but later, they agreed that 6 months is an appropriate age. Now day's, pets can be fixed around the age of 2 months old (2 pounds), so that the animals recover more quickly from surgery, when the average age is around 4 months old. "Surgeries at some places have very low cost surgeries for people who have low income" (North). Where no programs exist, this service that they do helps volunteers start them and hold conferences annually to end cat and dog overpopulation.

There are more programs all over the world that help with spaying and neutering surgeries. Christy Hobby, a pet owner of many kinds of animals for 40 years, says, "Most people don't spay or neuter their animals because it's so expensive." Another example of a program is The LA County Animal care fund, which offers its SAVE program to make spaying and neutering surgeries affordable. LA County online notes that SAVE "helps pay for the cost of surgery for animals that have been at the shelter longer than needed or have special needs." Dogs and puppies cost around \$100 to adopt, and cats and kittens cost around \$90 to adopt (Department). They both involve initial vaccinations, but are only for shelter animals. Free cat vaccinations don't include a licensing fee which is \$9, and free dog vaccinations don't include dog licensing fee which is around \$20-\$25 (Department). Cats need a 4 in 1 vaccination annually and dogs need a 6 in 1 vaccination. Also, they need a microchip including nation registration, which is needed before they are released into a new home. They also involve spaying and neutering costs, 7 day exchange, and a free veterinary medical examination at a participating veterinary office. In order to give away your pet to the shelter, you have to pay \$10-\$25, and pets only stay in the shelter up to around 4 days. When giving away pets to shelters, you should make sure to remember to ask to see the other animals in their care to see how healthy they are (Department). Shelters like this one are helpful because they are decent on their prices and are very careful with their care.

There are more strays in the world than there are animals with homes. America will always have strays, but the government can reduce the numbers by spaying and neutering pets (Spaying). There are animals all over the world with no homes. With little governmental help, the burden falls back on tax payers to pay for animal control because it's so expensive. It is \$500,000 for animal control and animal shelters a year. So when rates become affordable,

spaying and neutering goes into helping with all the unfixed pets. A good example of a spaying and neutering plan is followed by Daviess County, which offers to help by having affordable rates for fixing pets. They want to prevent 2000 cats and 2000 dogs from being turned into the animal shelter (Spaying). To have a pet spayed or neutered is \$30 for a cat and \$60 for a dog, which includes a rabies vaccination and pain medication. In less than 3 years, the county helped fix 1,300 cats and dogs (Spaying). Shelters are doing all that they can to help spay/neuter as many animals that they can.

The HSUS, which stands for The Humane Society of the United States, is one of the top societies for helping with sheltered and abandoned animals. The HSUS estimates that animal shelters care for 6 to 8 million dogs and cats every year in the US. The HSUS benefits from government assistance, but they would be more satisfied if the government would help spay and neuter animals as well. The chart below notes the reasons HSUS would like more help taking care of the growing animal population.



Approximately 3 to 4 million of those cats and dogs have been euthanized. HSUS notes that “in the 1970's, American shelters have euthanized 12 to 20 million dogs and cats, when there were 67 million that were in homes.” That's not even half of the population, but it's a start. To help reduce the number of homeless animals, The HSUS works to give responsible pet ownership and to reduce pet overpopulation through public education legislation, and support for sterilization programs (Humane). They try to promote adoption for shelters and rescues. The Humane Society helps save money and the lives of pets(Spaying). The more money we save and the more animals we save, the more we can get peoples attention on helping with strays and animals in shelters in getting them spayed/neutered and vaccinated.

Too many animals are not being given the right treatment they need. They are not getting their regular shots, they are being dumped into streets, and no one today has the time to give any concern for hopeless animals in this world. Most people do not have the money to help pay for shots and surgeries to keep pets and animals healthy and to keep from them from overpopulating. If there were more help in the world, and more people involved, the government would set aside money for shots and surgeries that all pets need.

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Should the government help pay for spay/neuter/vaccines for animals in shelters?

Thesis: The government should help pay for animal treatments for animals in shelters.

- I. Sheltered animals
 - A. Population for euthanize/death
 - B. Population of pets/homes
 1. Adoption
 2. Shelters
 - a. Killed/dumped
 - b. Heath/diseases
- II. Ex. Daviess county
 - A. Reduce strays
 - B. Spaying/neutering/vaccines
 1. Costs
 2. Result from costs
- III. HSUS (The Humane Society of the US)
 - A. Shelters
 - B. Euthanization
 1. Their program
 2. Spaying/neutering
- IV. LA County Animal Care
 - A. Adoption
 - B. Vaccines
 - C. Pets
- V. SPAY/USA program

A. Their program

B. Veterinarians

1. Spay/neuter

2. Costs

Conclusion:

A. Abandoned animals/how they're treated

B. Programs to help with animals