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FREE SPAY/NEUTERS AND LOW-COST PET WELLNESS CLINICS COME TO SLO COUNTY

Arroyo Grande, CA, January 20, 2022 — Three nonprofits join forces to fight pet overpopulation and improve animal welfare in San Luis Obispo County, providing free spays/neuters and low-cost wellness clinics for pet families in need through a project called Snip & Chip SLO.

The first Snip & Chip SLO event takes place Sunday, February 20, at Nipomo Dog & Cat Hospital in Nipomo, providing free spay and neuter surgeries as well as low-cost vaccines, microchips and other critical pet care. The project is a collaboration between SLO nonprofits Animal Shelter Adoption Partners (ASAP) and Animals in Need Fund along with Santa Barbara County's C.A.R.E.4Paws. The goal: to curb pet overpopulation, prevent pet homelessness and euthanasia of adoptable animals, and improve animal welfare in the community.

"San Luis Obispo County has too many unwanted pets," says ASAP's cofounder Terry Parry. "Over the years, various programs have increased pet adoptions, but that has not been enough. We have been at this long enough to know we cannot adopt our way out of this. By increasing access to free and low-cost spays/neuters, vaccines and microchips, Snip & Chip SLO will promote animal wellness and lower the number of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens born, which reduces intake numbers and euthanasia rates at our Animal Services shelter."

Snip & Chip SLO launches with two Pet Wellness Clinics on February 20 and March 20 in Nipomo. During these events, veterinary teams from Nipomo Dog & Cat Hospital and C.A.R.E.4Paws aim to perform at least 150 spays/neuters inside the pet hospital and in C.A.R.E.4Paws' two mobile clinics. Surgeries are offered by appointment, for free or at a low cost, to community members in need (appointment requests can be made at snipslo.org). From 10A.M. to 2P.M, dogs and cats can also receive rabies and other shots as well as microchips, flea treatment, deworming medication and nail trims from \$10 to \$15 without a prior appointment. At the events, low-income owners will have a chance to sign unaltered pets up for a future spay/neuter as long as appointments are still available.

"Pet care can be very costly, forcing families to choose between altering and vaccinating their animals and paying household bills," says Isabelle Gullo, Cofounder and Executive Director of C.A.R.E.4Paws, a nonprofit that assists thousands of families in Santa Barbara County annually by providing affordable, mobile spays/neuters, veterinary care and vaccine clinics as well as pet food and other critical services. "By working directly in underserved neighborhoods to build relationships and ensure that pet owners have access to the services they need, we not only improve quality of life for our pet families, but the welfare of our community."

To reach and help as many families in need as possible, the Snip & Chip SLO team looks to partner with local veterinary clinics, pet services providers and other animal and social welfare groups. The goal is to host multiple events throughout the county in 2022, provided there's enough funding from the community in the form of donations, sponsorships and grants.

"Snip & Chip SLO is a community effort and we hope everyone will come together to support this important project," says Dr. Robin Shroyer, cofounder of Animals in Need Fund and former owner of Nipomo Dog & Cat Hospital, a Snip & Chip SLO sponsor. "The support from the people of SLO County helped bring the shelter euthanasia rate at San Luis Obispo County Animal Services to

near zero, but pet overpopulation threatens to undo this hard work. Snip & Chip SLO eliminates obstacles that prevent animals from getting altered and receiving proper care.”

For more information about Snip & Chip SLO, including upcoming events, pet wellness services available, the partner organizations and how to volunteer and contribute to the project, please visit snipslo.org, email info@snipslo.org or call 805-242-2205.

About the Snip & Chip SLO partners:

C.A.R.E.4Paws

C.A.R.E.4Paws—short for Community Awareness, Responsibility & Education—works to reduce pet overpopulation, keep animals out of shelters and improve quality of life for pets and pet owners in need. The organization was founded in 2009 with the goal of promoting animal welfare and alleviating the burden borne by Santa Barbara County shelters by intervening before animals become homeless. Its critical services include free spays/neuters, assistance with veterinary care and low-cost vaccine events in C.A.R.E.4Paws’ own mobile veterinary clinic; distribution of pet food and supplies; support for domestic violence survivors and their pets; Paws Up For Pets youth education; bilingual community outreach that inspires compassion and accountability for animals; and Pet Emergency Training (P.E.T.) for First Responders. Learn more at care4paws.org.

Animals in Need Fund (AIN)

Animals in Need Fund (AIN) is a nonprofit 501c3 corporation dedicated to the health and wellbeing of cats and dogs. It is our mission to reduce animal suffering by:

- Preventing overpopulation with low/no cost spay-neuter programs
- Rescuing high-risk cats/kittens from the county shelters and rehoming them through a partnership with PETCO
- Providing no-interest loans to qualifying families whose pet is facing a medical emergency
- A commitment to community outreach and education

In addition to our community programs, AIN provide loans for families lacking the ability to fund a pet's catastrophic health crisis. These are no interest loans which can be paid back at a rate that is within the individual's financial means. This offers owners an option, avoiding a heart-wrenching decision of surrendering or euthanasia of a beloved furry family member.

Animal Shelter Adoption Partners (ASAP)

Animal Shelter Adoption Partners was started in 2001 to eliminate unnecessary euthanasia of adoptable animals at the San Luis Obispo County animal shelter.

Our first big project, after organizing a volunteer program and creating a website was “Rescue Me!”, a weekly TV show presenting every shelter animal! This brought new adopters to the shelter, reducing euthanasias. This show was on TV every day for 18 years. Within four years, unnecessary euthanasia of adoptable animals at the San Luis Obispo County Animal Services Shelter was zero.

ASAP provides financial support and equipment to foster homes, and funded a Behavior Assessment Program to find training solutions for dogs with bad behavior. We also provide Adoption Fee Rebates for hard-to-adopt pets, such as senior animals.