



Ending Pet Overpopulation in South-Central Indiana

**PRESS RELEASE 11/7/06
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Please Contact: Karla Kamstra at 345-0948 for add'l information.
Heather Hunter at 516-812-7212**

PETS ALIVE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC AWARDED SPAY USA PARTNERSHIP

SPAY/USA, a national program whose mission is to end the suffering of innocent dogs and cats by reducing the number of unwanted births, is announcing its partnership with Pets ALIVE Spay/Neuter Clinic, a 501(c)3 organization. SPAY/USA, founded by Esther Mechler in 1990 is a program of North Shore Animal League America, and serves as a national resource to provide affordable spay/neuter programs & services in **1,000** locations nationwide with **7,000** veterinarians in the network. "Our goal is to make spay/neuter services affordable to those who might not otherwise spay/neuter their pets, and we are thrilled to be partnering with Pets ALIVE Spay/Neuter Clinic to assist us in our quest to identify all the spay/neuter resources available in the state of Indiana," stated Mechler.

Pets ALIVE will begin partnering with SPAY/USA in December. Staff will be trained to screen calls and assist those needing spay/neuter services. "This is a natural fit for both organizations," said Karla Kamstra, President & Co-Founder of Pets ALIVE. "SPAY/USA serves as a national resource, and Pets ALIVE has an established statewide resource network that has naturally emerged through the operation of our regional spay/neuter clinic. Being mentored by Esther Mechler of North Shore Animal League America is truly an honor, as well. Esther is the true pioneer of the spay/neuter movement. Having worked in the field of spay/neuter for over 20 years, we can draw on her experiences to expand our services."

Pets ALIVE Spay/Neuter Clinic operates a regional spay/neuter clinic in Bloomington. It partners with animal welfare organizations from all over south-central Indiana to bring affordable, safe spay/neuter services to this region. Pets ALIVE provides these organizations free transportation to and from the clinic for service, as well as provides service to the Bloomington/Monroe County area. Those interested in service may call 812-1349 to schedule an appointment.

"Both SPAY/USA and Pets ALIVE agree that spay/neuter IS THE FIRST STEP TO NO KILL. We have seen a drastic reduction in the euthanasia rate in communities where high-volume, affordable spay/neuter is implemented. We have the knowledge – we just need to do it together," said Kamstra.

**6522 Empire Road
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-1 FIX - (812) 824-1351 (fax)**