# Lucky Star Spay Neuter Program News

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Our Mission: To gather, recognize and celebrate the continuing annual commitment of each of our member veterinarians to provide some level of absolutely free spay neuter services to the needy animals of their choice, along with any other free services they choose to provide.

## OUR LUCKY STARS

We are proud to present this roster of Lucky Star Veterinarians. Together these professionals have generously pledged 606 absolutely free spay neuter surgeries & other free services for needy animals of their choice in 2023, for which they have our utmost admiration and thanks:

**Dr. Erno Hollo & Dr. Melissa Rotella,** Basking Ridge Animal Hospital

**Dr. Harvey E. Hummel**, Andover Animal Hospital, Newton

**Dr. Danci Mock**, West Caldwell Animal Hospital

**Dr. Maritza Perez**, West Orange Animal Hospital

**Dr. P. Picone**, Audubon Veterinary Associates

**Dr. Sandra Stalder-Frey**, Alpha Veterinary Care

**Dr. Carolyn Wooley**, MCSNIP, Pennington

**Dr. David Croman,** Medical Director**,** People for Animals,Inc., Hillside, Robbinsville & Millville

## SOUND FAMILIAR? ☺

**"The Global Feral Fix Challenge 2023** urges the veterinary community 2 improve lives of feral cats by offering low-cost or **free** S/N services 4 free-roaming cats throughout the yr. By doing this, veterinairnas make a positive impact in their communities, directly reducing the # of cats & kittens outdoors & entering shelters....goal is to provide as many **free** or low-cost S/N surgeries as you are able. **Alley Cat Rescue** will contact you @ end of the year for an update." This differs from LS in several ways. Not surprisingly, we like Lucky Star's approach better! Join the Global Feral Fix Challenge 2023! (google.com)

## S/N BACKLOG PROMPTS QUESTIONS

The ongoing severe S/N backlog has revived attention to the temporary use of non surgical alternatives under very specific circumstances. Current thoughts from ACC&D on key factors to be evaluated by veterinarians and others can be found here:Short-term use of megestrol acetate for estrus prevention in cats when surgery is delayed — Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs (acc-d.org)

## HSUS LAUNCHES "MORE THAN A PET"

Per HSUS 20+ million pets live with their owners in poverty across the U.S., a # 3 times greater than the # of pets who enter shelters each yr. 70% of these pets have never seen a veterinarian. In addition to their "Pets for Life" & "Rural Area Veterinary Services" programs, HSUS has now launched More Than a Pet to raise funds and awareness & **provide solutions to increase access to care & keep families & their pets together, happy & healthy.** At above link, scroll down,find & click on "Family Resources" for tips. Here's the pg re lower cost **veterinary resources, including for S/N**. Having trouble affording your pet? | The Humane Society of the United States

## CONGRATS! TO PEOPLE FOR ANIMALS

on becoming a 2023 GreatNonprofits Top-Rated Nonprofit!https://greatnonprofits.org/org/people-for-animals-inc #2023

## VACANCY-"LUCKY STAR SPOKES DOG"

Any dog S/N'd for FREE by a Lucky Star is favored as we seek to award this coveted title(no public appearances & only rare public statements 4 the LS News). Any needy animal eligible. ☺

## PET INSURANCE TOPS $3.5 BILLION

Per The North American Pet Health Insurance Association (NAPHIA) pet insurance premiums were $3.51 **billion** for 2022, up 23.5% vs 2021. **More than 5.36 million pets were insured across North America**. In the **US**,• Total premium volume* was $3.22 billion (+24.2%) • 80.1% of insured pets were dogs; 19.9% were cats• The average annual accident & illness (A&I) premium for dogs was $640($53/mo.)• The average annual A&I premium for cats was $387($32/mo.) (LS Editor has rounded #s to nearest $) **Source**: Pet Business - North American Pet Insurance Industry Surpasses $3.5 Billion

## PET INSURANCE FOR S/N?

We reached out to NAPHIA re the current or possible role for pet insurance in S/N. Is it ever covered? Why? To what extent? & by whom? Their response in **NEXT ISSUE: AUGUST 1st**