



Lucky Star Spay Neuter Program News

Published by the **Lucky Star Spay Neuter Program** 12 Birch Lane, Morristown, NJ 07960

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Volume 113

December 2022

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 2022, 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

DARTING ELEPHANTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

[Inside a unique program that prevents cruelty to elephants in South Africa](#) While African elephant #'s R declining, in So.Africa they R being squeezed into smaller pockets of their former home ranges due to habitat loss & conflicts w/humans. They often wander to farmland or neighboring reserves where they are unwelcome. Traditionally, the "solution" to this is to kill elephants. Within these enclosed reserves, elephants can quickly reproduce—doubling every 10-15yrs. In a program launched in 1996, trained experts dart selected free-ranging elephants (1,530 so far) with a locally produced, non-hormonal, reversible contraceptive vaccine causing an immune response preventing pregnancy. This immune-contraception program is now officially legislated by So.Africa's government, & nearly 50 elephant reserves have adopted this population control method over culling, transforming elephant management there.

A LOOK AHEAD TO 2023

Oct 2023 will mark Lucky Star's 20th Year!

RAISING THE FOCUS ON S/N

Editorial: Appeals abound for \$ for care of endless #'s of cats & dogs, for more shelter space, & more animal care staff, volunteers, adopters, fosters & \$ to transport animals elsewhere. Rare are appeals to fund S/N or reports of efforts to provide S/N to the extent required. Yet the "excess" of animals needing homes & care will never be resolved unless S/N receives much more attention and funding. Sadly, S/N is not known to bring in donations as do photos of cute or injured puppies & kittens. We can each help by taking every opportunity to put more focus on S/N by: (1) earmarking our donations specifically for S/N (2) lobbying with all levels of government for more resources for S/N (3) letting corporate sponsors of animal charities know of the importance of S/N. Our individual actions, added to those of others, can have an impact. S/N deserves that focus & support.

A CARE2 PETITION RE AFFORDABLE S/N

Many are likely familiar w/ "Care2" [Care2 is the world's largest social network for good, a community of over 40 million people standing together, starting petitions and sharing stories that inspire action.](#) I was surprised to see a petition titled "S/N Surgeries aren't Affordable—States should help cover the Costs" which the originator (not me!) plans to send to all US Governors. On 11-7-22 it had 45,300+ signatures. (Not taking exception 2 the "needles", I signed the "hay stack" to help get this important topic the attention deserved.) Link: [petition: Spay and Neuter Surgeries Aren't Affordable. States Should Help Cover the Cost. \(thepetitionsite.com\)](#)

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY?

[Animal advocates urged to help in ending shelter crisis \(veterinarypracticenews.com\)](#) Per Mars Petcare: "Animal shelters across North America are in a crisis. In support of its mission to end pet homelessness, Mars Petcare has launched **Service Humans Needed**, a shelter volunteer program aimed at enlisting the help of animal advocates to help community shelters and pets in need." (A worthy effort **BUT** also a great opportunity to contact Mars Pet Care, which I did, [Contact Us | Mars. Incorporated](#) to suggest that their efforts should include a BIG S/N effort as a top priority.)

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