

For Immediate Release

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On the Eve of Spay/Neuter Awareness Month, Woods Humane Society Urgently Seeks Veterinarians to Meet Local Demand

A Nationwide Veterinary Shortage Impacts Local Pet Populations as Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinics Scramble to Staff Veterinary Teams

San Luis Obispo, CA (January 27, 2023) — February is National Spay/Neuter Awareness Month, and yet San Luis Obispo County, like many counties nationwide, is struggling with a severe shortage of veterinarians to perform these important procedures which help manage local pet populations.

[Woods Humane Society](https://www.woodshumane.org/) has searched near and far for nearly a year to hire a full-time veterinarian to help them meet the high demand for affordable spay/neuter surgeries in SLO county.

“Our nonprofit operates the county’s only two low-cost spay/neuter clinics and we perform an average of 5,000 of these surgeries per year for locally-owned pets as well as for shelter animals at Woods, SLO County Animal Services, and other rescues,” explains Woods Humane Society CEO Neil Trent. “In 2022, even without being able to staff full veterinary teams as we’d hoped, we still managed to perform 5,456 spay/neuter



Figure 1: Woods Humane Society's Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinics perform an average of 5,000 spay and neuter surgeries for local pets each year. As part of a national shortage of veterinarians, the nonprofit organization has been unable to hire a staff veterinarian to keep up with demand.

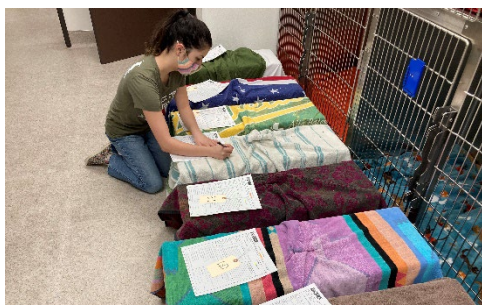


Figure 2: Woods Humane Society works with the community and other rescues to alter more than 60 cats in one day at a recent "Tip It Tuesday" clinic reserved for local community cats. The program is critical to managing the local cat population.

surgeries. However, in the last few months, we have not been able to keep up with demand and have had to temporarily postpone taking any new appointments from the public.”

Trent says that the nonprofit organization is desperately in search of qualified veterinarians to help them continue offering a high volume of sterilizations in order to manage pet populations and reduce the instances of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens in our county.

“A slow-down of any kind in spay/neuter efforts can have a significant ripple effect on our local pet population. With shelters full across California, and with spring kitten season on the way, the veterinary shortage and the resulting restrictions on spay and neuter surgeries will only negatively impact an already dire situation. It is our top priority to recruit and hire veterinarians so that we can carry out the Woods mission and keep the SLO County shelter from experiencing the same overcrowding and unnecessary euthanasia that many other county shelters in this state are experiencing.”



Figure 3: Short-staffed and in need of a full-time staff veterinarian, Woods Humane Society still managed to perform more than 5,400 sterilization surgeries in 2022, but is now unable to keep up with public demand.

To learn more about applying for the open staff veterinarian position at Woods Humane Society, visit [woodshumanesociety.org/get-involved/employment-opportunities](https://www.woodshumanesociety.org/get-involved/employment-opportunities).

Woods is located at 875 Oklahoma Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 and at 2300 Ramona Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422, and is open to the public daily from 12-5 p.m., with adoption hours from 12-4 p.m. For more information about Woods, visit www.WoodsHumane.org or call (805) 543-9316.

For media inquiries or high-resolution images, please contact Media@woodshumane.org.

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About Woods Humane Society

Founded in 1955, Woods Humane Society is a privately funded, non-profit, animal sheltering and welfare organization that annually places up to 3,000 dogs and cats into loving homes. All animals are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped prior to being placed for adoption. Visit www.woodshumane.org to view available animals, donate or learn more. To make an adoption appointment, call Woods Humane Society SLO, located at 875 Oklahoma Avenue in San Luis Obispo, at (805) 543-9316, or Woods Humane Society North County, located at 2300 Ramona Road in Atascadero, at (805) 466-5403.