SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ANIMAL SERVICES SECTION
8451 BEE RIDGE ROAD SARASOTA FL 34241
941-861-9500

SPAY/NEUTER INSTRUCTIONS/QUALIFICATIONS:

Dear Applicant,

Enclosed is an application for dog/cat sterilization for the low cost /no cost Spay/Neuter program. A basic information sheet about the program is included with this application.

This program has been authorized by your County Government to assist Sarasota County residents eligible to receive benefits from established social programs or who have a low/fixed income needing financial assistance in having their animals sterilized. If you presently qualify for food stamps, Medicaid, AFDC or other similar assistance programs, you probably also qualify for the low cost/no-cost Spay/Neuter Program.

We ask that you read the "Statement of Hardship" printed below. If you feel that this statement truly reflects your situation, fill it out, sign it, and return the completed application to Animal Services, 8451 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota Fl 34241. Upon approval, a certificate will be sent to you to have your animal sterilized.

It must be understood that the certificate covers the cost of the spay/neuter surgery only. Your animal must have current rabies vaccination and a current Sarasota County license. The vaccination cost is not covered nor is the license fee. Payment for any additional services provided by your veterinarian is not covered by this program. Discuss any additional fees that may occur with your veterinarian and please note that some veterinarians do not accept this certificate for complete payment and additional fees may occur.

We trust that we can be of service to you and your animal.

Respectfully,
THOMAS M. KNIGHT, SHERIFF

Lt. Thomas Stroud
Animal Services

STATEMENT OF HARDSHIP

I hereby represent that I am a resident of Sarasota County and I am eligible to participate in the in the Spay/Neuter Program based on one of the following: (please check all that apply)

- o   Receiving Medicaid
- o   Receiving Food Stamps
- o   Receiving aid to Families with dependent children
- o   Receiving other social benefits- Please specify_____
- o   Low/fixed income: Yearly income:_____ number of people in household_____

SIGNED: _____ DATE_____

SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ANIMAL SERVICES SECTION
8451 BEE RIDGE ROAD SARASOTA FL 34241
941-861-9500

APPLICATION FOR DOG/CAT STERILIZATION
(PLEASE PRINT)

DATE: _____   REFERRED BY: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK _____CELL_____

ONLY ONE ANIMAL PER APPLICATION

Circle one: DOG   CAT   Male Female   Animal's Name_____

Animal's age_____ Animal's Breed_____ **RABIES LICENSE NUMBER**_____

Last year that your animal was vaccinated against rabies? _____

Do you have a regular veterinarian? _____ if yes please list name of Clinic_____

I hereby certify that I am the owner of the above referenced animal. I have read the about the sterilization procedure and the possible side effects of this process or it has been explained to me. I believe I understand the benefits and risk of this procedure to the above referenced animal. I hereby consent to the sterilization procedure. I further agree to hold harmless Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, its employees, agents and volunteers from liability arising out of the sterilization of the above referenced animal.

_____
(Signature of owner)

Mail to: Sarasota County Sheriffs Office, Animal Services Section
          8451 Bee Ridge Road Sarasota Fl 34241

Questions? Call Animal Services at 861-9500 8:00am – 4:30pm Monday thru Friday.

FOR ANIMAL SERVICES USE ONLY

DATE:_____

APPROVED:_____CERTIFICATE NUMBER_____

QUALIFIED BY:_____

APPLICATION APPROVED FOR:_____VENDOR# _____

_____
(SIGNATURE OF SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM ADMINSTRATOR)

SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANIMAL SERVICES SECTION

8451 BEE RIDGE ROAD SARASOTA FL 34241

941-861-9500

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOG/CAT SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

- **What is the Sarasota County Spay/Neuter Program?** It is a low cost / free sterilization program for dogs and cats in Sarasota County.
- **What does the program not cover?** The program does not cover the cost of the mandatory rabies vaccination and license. It does not cover any addition expense that may occur including exams or additional vaccinations that your veterinarian may require. Some veterinarians do not accept the certificate for the full cost of the spay or neuter. Please be aware that there may be additional fees for the cost of the animal being altered.
- **How is the program funded?** Funds for the program have been appropriated in the budget of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.
- **Why have such a program?** Thousands of unwanted puppies and kittens are born each year in Sarasota County. This program is designed to reduce these births, which in turn reduces the operating costs of Animal Services to the Sarasota County taxpayers.
- **What animals are eligible?** Any dog or cat owned by a Sarasota County resident who meets qualifications established under the program.
- **How can I apply?** Fill out the attached application for dog/cat sterilization, make sure to fill out the statement of hardship and mail the application to: **Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Animal Services Section 8451 Bee Ridge Road Sarasota Fl 34241.** Upon review of the application and approval, a certificate authorizing payment for surgical sterilization will be mailed to each qualified applicant(until funds are expended) with instructions for making an appointment with the designated veterinarian.
- **Where and when can I contact Animal Services to ask questions?** Call Animal Services at 861-9500, Monday thru Friday 8:00 am – 4:30pm.
- **How long will the program be in effect?** The program is on a first come, first serve" basis and will continue until all the appropriate funds have been used.
- **What is Spay and /or neuter?** Surgical sterilization of dogs and cats under anesthesia by a licensed veterinarian. A female dog or cat is spayed by removal of the uterus and ovaries; a male dog or cat is neutered by removal of the testicles.
- **What are the risks?** Risks are minimal. Animals are fully anesthetized so that they feel no pain during the surgery. Recovery period is short. Serious harm as the result of a spay/neuter surgery is rare.
- **What are the advantages of sterilization?** Prevention of unwanted births of puppies and kittens. It helps prevent irritability and aggression. Numerous health benefits and it can help increase the lifespan. Reduces the urge to roam. Reduces spraying in male cats.