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HAYWOOD SPAY/NEUTER, 182 RICHLAND ST., WAYNESVILLE, NC 28786

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Haywood Spay/Neuter: Another Successful Year – *Getting Ready for Success in 2018!*

Haywood Spay/Neuter is starting the New Year with free microchips for those pets going through their low cost spay/neuter service thanks to a grant from **Bissell Pet Foundation**. Last year HAYWOOD SPAY/NEUTER provided **1,588 surgeries** for Haywood County residents including **95 through their Operation Pit program** and **626 free roaming cats under their Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program**. Since the TNR program was established in 2009, the **TNR program has fixed about 6,000 free roaming cats** greatly lowering the number of strays turned into the county shelter. TNR's goal is to add at least another 600 plus to this total in 2018.



“All this costs money,” said Linda Sexton, vice president and acting president. “We hope the free microchips will be a positive incentive for pet owners to have their pets fixed through our low-cost spay/neuter transport service. But, we are concerned about how the recent changes to the tax laws will impact non-profits. So far, foundations have been supportive of our TNR Program but there are few grant-making organizations supporting the types of programs

provided by HAYWOOD SPAY/NEUTER. Even fewer grantors and foundations are willing to support the full range of costs incurred to provide our services.”

Nancye Buelow, a new HAYWOOD SPAY/NEUTER board member is already working on fundraising ideas to make sure HAYWOOD SPAY/NEUTER can continue to provide low cost spay/neuter for those pet owners needing it. “HAYWOOD SPAY/NEUTER clientele are the working poor (91%) with household incomes below 300% of the federal Poverty Guidelines. Our costs and fees for service must be kept low for the Haywood county pets or the numbers of unwanted litters will rise, the numbers of unwanted pets delivered to the shelter numbers will go up not down as they have in recent years”, she stated.

“So – Mark this date on your calendar. **Yappy Hour is set for June 8th at Maggie Valley Country Club**,” she exclaimed. “It will be a fund raiser with an animal trivia contest and wine pull. Not only will attendees have a great time, but will be contributing to the welfare of animals in Haywood County.”

Haywood Spay/Neuter is the oldest not for profit animal welfare group in Haywood county dating back to 1955. It has sponsored over 21,000 low-cost spay and neuter surgeries since 2003 and will continue to work with the community providing low-cost dog and cat spay and neuter services for those that cannot afford to have this much needed service done.