

California Department of Food and Agriculture 2026 Pet Lover's Spay and Neuter Grant Program Project Abstracts

Pet Lover's License Plate Project Abstracts

Community Spay Neuter Clinic

\$50,000

Multi-Pet Spay/Neuter Access Initiative

Community Spay Neuter Clinic proposes the Multi-Pet Spay/Neuter Access Initiative, an in-house High-Quality High-Volume Spay/Neuter (HQHVSN) project addressing a gap in pet overpopulation prevention: multi-pet households that sterilize only some animals. Financial barriers often prevent households with multiple cats from sterilizing all animals, leaving some intact and contributing to unplanned litters. The project promotes complete household sterilization by subsidizing surgery for a second cat when the owner independently pays for the first surgery at the clinic's established low-cost rate. Grant funds will support 400 spay and neuter surgeries for second cats from eligible multi-pet households, paired with 400 client-paid surgeries, for a total of 800 cats sterilized during the grant period. This approach increases reproductive impact per household served.

Santa Barbara County Animal Services

\$50,000

Relaunching Project PetSafe Public Clinics

Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS) operates Project PetSafe, offering low-cost prevention to keep pets healthy and at home. With the addition of a staff veterinarian, SBCAS has resumed limited public spay and neuter services; however, demand far exceeds available capacity, and the lack of affordable options continues to contribute to preventable litters and increased shelter intake. This project will expand public spay and neuter availability by contracting with local veterinarians to provide up to two days of surgery each week in the Santa Maria shelter clinic.

Tehama County Animal Services

\$50,000

Spay/Neuter Assistance for Cats and Dogs in Rural Communities

The program addresses the need for expanded access to veterinary care and spay and neuter services in rural communities within Tehama and Glenn counties. With more than 20 percent of residents living below the poverty line, extended travel distances and high surgical costs limit access to sterilization services. Using a mobile spay and neuter van, services will be delivered to rural communities throughout both counties. Free spay and neuter procedures for dogs and cats will be available to underserved residents located more than 25 miles from a veterinary clinic. The program will increase surgical capacity by 825 procedures, with a goal of altering 575 cats and 250 dogs.

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Prevention Fund Project Abstracts

Compassion Without Borders

\$47,750

Compassionate Starts: Spay and Neuter Access for Community and Shelter Pets

Compassion Without Borders (CWOB) plans to deliver veterinary wellness services in underserved communities by operating in low-income neighborhoods, offering bilingual support, and providing care with respect and cultural sensitivity. Animals identified as needing sterilization are scheduled for surgery at monthly spay and neuter clinics. Clients served through this program would otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary services. All shelter animals receive on-site spay and neuter surgery prior to adoption to ensure no animal leaves care unaltered. The 2026 goal is to spay or neuter at least 500 animals through shelter operations and access-to-care clinics.

Furever Family

\$49,995

Orange County Spay/Neuter Assistance Project (OC SNAP)

The goal of the Furever Family OC SNAP project is to demonstrate that targeted spay and neuter programs can reduce shelter intake and curb pet overpopulation. The cost of spay and neuter surgeries has increased significantly, and Orange County does not offer countywide low-cost or free options, resulting in many pets remaining unaltered. The project will provide free and low-cost spay and neuter services to residents of Anaheim and Santa Ana, which account for 53 percent of dog intake and 63 percent of cat intake at Orange County Animal Care (OCAC), the municipal shelter serving 14 cities and approximately 1.8 million residents. Continued access to low-cost spay and neuter services is expected to contribute to a reduction in shelter intake overtime.

Orange County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

\$25,000

Veteran Spay/Neuter Expansion Initiative – Mobile Clinic Days

The Veteran Spay/Neuter Expansion Initiative aims to provide free spay and neuter surgeries for approximately 250 veteran-owned animals in fiscal year 2026–27. The clinics are made possible through a partnership with The Good Mobile, a mobile clinic operated by the Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA, which is paid a flat rate per animal. The program removes transportation and access barriers while helping veterans retain their animals and transition more easily into housing programs that require pets to be altered and healthy. Orange County Animal Allies will continue to effectively meet the needs of Orange County veterans and their pets.

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Ridgecrest Animal Shelter**\$49,905***Community low-cost spay and neuter to reduce shelter intake and euthanasia*

This project will support veterinary services to continue providing low-cost spay and neuter procedures to community members. These services benefit pet owners and help reduce shelter intake and euthanasia rates. Program success will be evaluated by tracking the number of animals sterilized using grant funds and by monitoring overall trends in shelter intake and euthanasia rates as access to spay and neuter services increases.

Sacramento SPCA**\$27,714***Sacramento SPCA - We Pay to Spay*

The Sacramento SPCA’s We Pay to Spay (WPTS) program will provide extremely low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to prevent unwanted litters, reduce overpopulation, and prevent dogs from entering shelters. WPTS plans to expand in 2026 to include German shepherds, huskies, and terriers to provide 825 spay and neuter surgeries, directly reducing the number of puppies to enter the shelter. This expansion will allow the Sacramento SPCA to address changing community needs while continuing to provide a proven, cost-effective solution to prevent overpopulation and serve the region’s most vulnerable dogs and their owners.

Simi Valley Nonprofit Spay & Neuter Clinic, Incorporated**\$50,000***Free Spay & Neuter Services for Pets in Urgent Need in Kern & Tulare Counties*

The primary goal of this project is to provide free, accessible, high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter services to pets and families with the greatest need in Kern and Tulare Counties. Through this project, more than 600 dogs and cats will be sterilized that might otherwise produce unwanted litters, further straining overcapacity shelters and underserved communities. The nonprofit clinics were established in response to rising poverty levels, increased shelter intake, and elevated euthanasia rates. To reach vulnerable populations, the organization maintains partnerships with community leaders and local rescue organizations to identify households with the greatest need.

San Diego Spay-Neuter Action Project**\$49,636***SNAP’s Critical Communities: Low-Cost Spay and Neuter for San Diego County Pets*

Spay-Neuter Action Project (SNAP) operates free and low-cost spay and neuter clinics through mobile surgical units and a stationary clinic. The project will assist with covering costs of medical, surgical, and related supplies to support 37 low-cost clinics, serving over a total of 1,000 cats and dogs owned by low-income residents of San Diego County. Services will be provided in North County rural areas and the cities of Oceanside and Escondido via the “Neuter Scooter,” in central and southern regions via the “Neuter Cruiser,” and in East County at the SNAP East Spay Center.