

## Hillsborough County Spay & Neuter Voucher Program Application

# Get Your Pet “Fixed” for \$10!\*

(813) 744-5660 • 440 N. Falkenburg Road in Tampa

Open Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

[HCFLGov.net/Pets](http://HCFLGov.net/Pets)

\*For residents using public assistance programs or who meet other income criteria.



### What is the Hillsborough County Dog and Cat Spay/Neuter Voucher Program?

The program allows Hillsborough County residents with limited incomes to get their pets “fixed” for a co-pay of \$10. The program includes a spay or neuter surgery, County license tag, and rabies vaccination. To use this program, you must live in Hillsborough County **and** show proof of:

- A.** Participation or benefits from one of the following public assistance programs (a benefit card or letter):
- Food Stamps
  - Hillsborough Health Care Plan
  - Medicaid
  - Section 8 Housing
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
  - Women, Infants & Children; OR

- B.** Low-income earnings, as defined by the Federal Poverty Income Guideline and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Your income cannot be higher than 185 percent of the poverty level. If you aren't sure if you qualify, please call (813) 744-5660 for information.

### The Truth About Spaying & Neutering

Getting your pet “fixed” will NOT make it fat, miserable, lazy or less able to love and protect you or your family. The one-time pet surgery will help your pet stay **healthier, live longer**, and have fewer behavior problems. Pets that are spayed or neutered:

- Cannot produce unwanted puppies or kittens
- **Are less likely to develop serious diseases, such as cancer**
- Are less likely to bite, run away, or fight with other animals
- Are often more clam and affectionate
- Are less likely to spray and mark territory
- Tend to live longer, healthier lives overall

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What does spay, neuter and sterilize mean?

These words describe a surgery done by veterinarians to prevent pets from having puppies or kittens. Some people call this having your pet “fixed.” Females are spayed. Males are neutered.

#### What does the program cover?

Not only does the voucher program cover the actual spay or neuter surgery at a participating clinic or vet's office, it also provides a County pet license tag and rabies vaccination (if your pet does not already have it).

#### Will there be extra fees?

The administrative fee of \$10 or co-pay shall be the only payment made by the resident and collected by the veterinarian for the sterilization procedure. There may be a cost for medication after surgery.

#### What if I have more than one dog or cat?

One approved voucher may be used for up to eight (8) dogs and cats, any combination, per calendar year. (Oct. - Sept.)

#### Can I use this program if I only receive Medicare or Social Security Disability?

Yes, but only if your household income isn't over 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

#### What if I lose my voucher or it expires before I am able to use it?

Request a replacement by calling (813) 744-5660 and give your name and voucher number.

#### What if my dog or cat is sick when I bring it to the clinic for surgery?

Spay/neuter surgery may be postponed if your pet is sick, pregnant, nursing, in season (heat), or has other medical conditions. The veterinarian must make that decision, so contact that office for more information.

#### How old does my pet have to be to get it fixed?

Most dogs and cats can have spay/neuter surgery as early as eight (8) weeks of age. Important: pets can start having unwanted babies as early as four (4) months of age! It's best to “fix” or get them spayed/neutered as soon as possible.

