

Celebrate Spay Day USA at the adoptathon

TILLAMOOK — According to the Humane Society of the United States, there are around 77 million owned dogs and 94 million owned cats in this country. However, out of all those pets, only about 19 percent of dogs and 22 percent of cats were adopted from a shelter. And as news agencies around the country have reported, over the past several years, the recession has forced many people to offer their pets for adoption. Some have even abandoned animals they could no longer afford to keep.

In honor of the annual Spay Day USA, which this year is Tuesday, Feb. 23, United Paws of Tillamook County is offering spayed and neutered cats and dogs for adoption from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at the 4-H Dorm in Tillamook County Fairgrounds, 4603 E. Third St. Weather permitting, Tillamook Animal Shelter dogs will be there too; call (503) 812-0105 to check.

If a kitten or puppy is too young to have had this vital operation by Feb. 27, the adoption fee includes a spay/neuter certificate, which is a cost saving over the usual fee pet owners pay for spay/neuter surgery themselves. In addition, all animals are up to date with inoculations.

To preview pets for adoption, visit www.unitedpaws.org. Not all cats and dogs in United Paws' foster homes can be taken to the adoption event, because some are too shy or could be distressed by the excitement. To adopt a pet (or more than one) before Feb. 27, call (503) 842-5663, leave a message, and a volunteer will call back to schedule a private meeting.

If you're a Tillamook County resident who needs financial assistance to spay or neuter your cat or dog or free-roaming cats you are caring for in your neighborhood, call the United Paws hotline at (503) 842-5663, leave a message, and a volunteer will return your call.

United Paws is Tillamook County's all-volunteer spay/neuter advocacy group dedicated to alleviating and preventing cruelty to animals as a result of homelessness. United Paws relies on donations to carry out its mission. Last year, United Paws spayed or neutered 1,027 Tillamook County cats and dogs who would otherwise not have been sterilized. Donations are welcome at United Paws, P.O. Box 159, Tillamook, OR 97141.

"COAST WEEKEND"
FEB. 26-8
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