




FOHO WV

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The Federation of Humane Organizations of West Virginia, INC.

	How West Virginia can save millions of dollars annually and end the archaic, cruel practice of killing homeless animals. The laws and rules are in place for the WV Spay Neuter Assistance Program (WV SNAP). The Department of Agriculture is prepared to enforce the law and manage the program.
2013	WV SNAP was passed by the WV Legislature.
2015	Rules were passed by the WV Legislature.
2017	Bill introduced to increase the Pet Food Fee to fund WV SNAP.

\$10 million reasons why West Virginians need funding for WV SNAP:

- 65% of WV households have pets¹
- 930,794 - Dogs and cats live in WV households²
- 123,355 – Estimated number of feral cats living in WV³
- WV taxpayers spend nearly \$10 million every year for pet population control⁴
- 20,000 (40%) dogs and cats that enter WV shelters every year are euthanized⁵
- WV SNAP is the only viable solution to reducing over population of dogs and cats
- WV SNAP will help control feral and stray cat populations
- Fewer unwanted pets will reduce incidents of cruelty, neglect, and human/animal conflicts
- Participation in WV SNAP encourages compliance with existing laws

Why increasing the Pet Food Fee is the right choice for WV SNAP:

- **No new taxes!** Cost to be added to the existing pet food registration fee⁶
- **Minimal fee will provide reliable, recurring funds.** A \$100 fee increase X 9,000 brands⁷ = \$900,000 annually
- **A profitable industry.** Based on the pet food industry's 2015 revenue reports, sales in WV were approximately \$196 million⁸ This represents an increase of 18-22% over 2014 and an additional 16% increase is expected by 2018⁹
- **Pass-along cost, if any, negligible.** Has been estimated at \$1.00 per year per pet per owner.¹⁰
- **State-wide benefit.** Available to residents, non-profits, and animal control in all 55 counties
- **Funding WV SNAP will save tax dollars and save lives.**

¹ http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/pet_overpopulation/facts/pet_ownership_statistics.html

² <https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Statistics/Pages/US-pet-ownership-calculator.aspx>

³ <https://www.petsmartcharities.org/pro/grant-stories/free-roaming-cats-can-bring-communities-together>

⁴ 2015 – Survey Shelter Report & County Commissions – FOHO WV - data of 37 counties

⁵ 2014 WV Board of Veterinary Medicine Euthanasia Report – 30 counties



⁶ WV Code 19-14-5(e)(2),

⁷ WV Dept. of Agriculture / Regulatory & Environmental Affairs Division, 2015

⁸ US Bureau of Labor Statistics (USBLS) - 79 million US Pet Households divided into \$27 billion Pet Food Sales = \$342 per household X 574,078 WV Pet Households = **\$196 million in WV Pet Food Sales in 2015** - FOHO WV

⁹ <http://www.petfoodindustry.com/blogs/7-adventures-in-pet-food/post/5792-us-pet-food-spending-driven-by-higher-income-pet-owners>

¹⁰ Secovich, Sharon J. Case Study: companion Animal Over-population Programs in New Jersey, New Hampshire, & Maine

<p><u>Spay & Neuter Saves Lives</u></p> <p>34 other states have already established similar funding programs to support spay/neuter services.</p> <p>After implementing their program, New Jersey experienced a 61% decrease in pet homelessness, and New Hampshire had over a 75% decrease in euthanasia rates over an 8-year period.¹⁰</p>		<p><u>Spay & Neuter Advances Public Health and Safety</u></p> <p>Increased access to spay/neuter assistance will reduce the number of intact animals that are more prone to human- animal conflict.</p> <p>Sterilization will <u>reduce</u> undesirable behavior, will <u>lessen</u> the urge to roam, and will <u>reduce</u> the spread of rabies through exposure to local wildlife.</p>
<p><u>Spay & Neuter Saves Money</u></p> <p>\$218 average per animal sheltering cost.</p> <p>WV spends nearly ten million tax dollars annually to impound, care for, re-home and euthanize dogs and cats throughout WV.⁴</p> <p>In the first seven years of the New Hampshire spay/neuter program, the state saved \$3.25 in impoundment costs for every \$1 invested.¹⁰</p>	 <p>WV Spay Neuter Act Chapter 19-Article 20B</p> <p>WV Spay Neuter Assistance Program Chapter 19-Article 20C</p> <p>Code of State Rule 61 CSR 24</p>	<p>Reliable funding generated for the sole purpose of reducing pet overpopulation will benefit all WV residents and the animals in their care.</p>

Other considerations

- Income tax check off.....Not dependable, not enough money
- Surcharge on rabies vaccinations.....Veterinarians do not support this option
- Specialty auto license plates.....Money goes to the DMV and not to spay/neuter
- Increase dog license fee.....Low compliance, money supports animal control facility
- Yearly State appropriation.....Unreliable revenue during lean budget years

Objections

Additional Resources:

- <http://www.petfoodindustry.com/blogs/7-adventures-in-pet-food/post/6038-pet-food-sales-update-us-spending-up-22-in-2015>
- <http://www.petbusinessprofessor.com/petmarket/2015-u-s-pet-food-spending-29-5bup-5-4b/>
- <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/00>
- <https://www.aspc.org/>
- <http://www.animallaw.com/Model-Law-Population-Control.cfm>