



**Dear Brock Council Members:**

We are writing today to propose a mutually beneficial partnership between the eight municipalities in Durham Region, Ontario, and our Charity Spay Neuter Initiatives Association (SNIA) Charitable Registration No. 855146312RR0001.

**WHO WE ARE:**

**Our history:**

Spay Neuter Initiatives Association was started in 2010 by a small group of dedicated animal rescuers and advocates who wanted to bring low-cost spay neuter to Durham Region. We were Incorporated on August 19, 2010, and became a Registered Canadian Charity on February 11, 2011. Since then, we have worked quietly in the background of animal rescue offering low-cost spay/neuter procedures to the animals of residents of Durham Region. We worked on a small scale for many years, but due to the problems of pet abandonment and overpopulation that developed during the Covid pandemic and continue today, we have increased our efforts to assist.

We recently contacted all of the Veterinarians in Durham Region and asked them how they could help us provide low-cost spay/neuter surgeries to the companion animals of lower income families in the region. We were pleasantly surprised when a number of accredited and excellent Veterinarians offered their help and expertise to our new program. We, of course, call our new program SNIP.

**Our Present Board of Directors:**

Martin Field, Board Chair – retired from GM skilled trades and dedicated, long-time animal advocate and protectionist.

Dianne Field, Vice-President and Secretary – retired social worker, animal rescuer and advocate.

Emily Gerber, Director – Supervisor of Uxbridge Scugog Animal Shelter – an animal lover and rescuer both at home and at work.

Don McBey, Director – retired United Church Minister, lawyer and long-time animal advocate.

Linda Power, Board President and temporary Treasurer – retired from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, long-time animal rescuer, advocate and protectionist.

Angela Schweinitz – radio host, animal lover and cat lover extraordinaire.

*Financial Consultant* -- Lorraine Rotz, CPA - CA and devoted dog Mum

## WHAT WE BELIEVE:

In the midst of adversity, when life feels uncertain and resources are scarce, pets emerge as steadfast companions for children, seniors and families navigating poverty. These furry friends offer much more than mere companionship; they become anchors of emotional support, resilience, and hope.

The enjoyment and benefits of companion animals should not be exclusive to affluent individuals and families. Companion animals can provide significant emotional support, companionship, and health benefits to people from all walks of life.

It's important for our communities to find ways to make the joys and benefits of pet ownership accessible to a broader population, including those who may not have the financial means to always be able to care for an animal. By doing so, we can work towards a more equitable and compassionate society where the benefits of human-animal bonds are shared by many.

## WHAT WE DO:

SNIA collaborates closely with established and accredited veterinary clinics across Durham Region. Our goal is to address the critical issue of pet overpopulation by facilitating subsidized, low-cost spay/neuter procedures for the animals of lower-income residents. By doing so, our aim is to reduce the strain on local shelters by reducing the number of intakes each year, enhance animal health in our communities, and promote responsible pet ownership. Our vision is simple: healthier pets, happier families, and a stronger, more compassionate community.

## WHY WE WORK WITH EXISTING VETERINARY FACILITIES FOR OUR PROGRAM:

Low-cost spay/neuter programs that utilize existing veterinary clinics offer several advantages over building or renting new facilities.

### 1. **Cost Efficiency:**

- Existing clinics already have infrastructure, equipment, and trained staff in place. Utilizing these resources avoids the need for significant upfront costs associated with constructing or renting a new building.
- Funds can be directed toward actual spaying and neutering services rather than construction and maintenance expenses.

### 2. **Immediate Implementation:**

- Existing clinics can start offering spay/neuter services immediately. Building or renting a new facility takes a great deal of funding, time for planning, construction, and setup.
- Addressing pet overpopulation promptly is crucial. Existing clinics allow quicker action.

### 3. **Community Integration:**

- Local clinics are familiar to pet owners. People trust established veterinary practices.
- Accessibility --clients can easily access services without traveling to a new location.

### 4. **Quality of Care:**

- Existing clinics have skilled professionals who can perform surgeries safely.
- Established clinics often have better resources for high-quality procedures.

### 5. **Collaboration:**

- Working with existing clinics fosters collaboration between private practitioners and low-cost programs.

### 6. **Sustainability:**

- Existing clinics are sustainable because they operate within the existing veterinary healthcare system.
- Raising funds for ongoing operations is more manageable than large-scale construction projects.

## WHY VETERINARIANS WANT TO WORK WITH OUR PROGRAM:

1. **Community Engagement:** Working with a Charity increases a veterinarian's visibility in the community and can build a positive reputation, potentially attracting more clients who have the resources to pay for other veterinary services.
2. **Public Health Contribution:** By participating in our program, veterinarians play a crucial role in controlling pet populations.
3. **Financial Incentives:** Although the services are offered at lower fees, veterinarians may still receive some compensation by offering some additional paid services.
4. **Giving Back to Communities:** Veterinarians working with our Charity give back to the communities that have supported them.

In summary, leveraging existing veterinary clinics for low-cost spay/neuter programs is a practical, efficient, and community-oriented approach that benefits both pets, their owners and communities.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Our spay/neuter program focuses on the following key aspects:

- **Accessibility:** We believe that every pet owner should have access to affordable veterinary care. Our program ensures that financial constraints do not prevent responsible pet guardians from seeking essential services.
- **Collaboration:** We work closely with reputable, accredited veterinary clinics within Durham Region. These clinics provide their expertise, their facility, and skilled veterinary professionals to perform the necessary procedures.
- **Community Impact:** By preventing unplanned litters, we contribute to a healthier and more sustainable pet population. This, in turn, benefits both animals and residents in all of our communities and reduces the intake of unwanted unowned pets by municipal animal services and other sheltering organizations.

Since our new **Accessible, Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Veterinary Program** launched on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, we have witnessed an overwhelming response from pet owners. However, we have also learned that we must face a stark reality: many residents are truly struggling financially due to the present economic situation. Families, more than ever, are grappling with food insecurity, housing instability and limited access to medical and dental care – not only for themselves but for their beloved four-footed family members.

Our program aims to address this critical need. By offering subsidized spay/neuter services, we empower pet owners to make responsible choices for their animals. Yet, despite our new program's very reasonable fees, a significant number of applicants find it impossible to cover even these costs. These are families who love their pets dearly but are caught in a financial bind.

## PROGRAM DETAILS:

- **Eligibility Criteria:**
  - Participants must reside within Durham Region
  - They must be 18 years or older
  - Household income must fall below the Canadian Low Income Cut-Off thresholds as follows:

- Total income of **one** household member not to exceed..... \$22,784
- Total income of **two** household members not to exceed..... \$28,364
- Total income of **three** household members not to exceed..... \$34,870
- Total income of **four** household members not to exceed..... \$42,338
- Total income of **five** household members not to exceed..... \$48,019
- Total income of **six** household members not to exceed..... \$60,296

Each adult income in the household, must provide a copy of the current, official Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment (NOA) showing total income (line #150)

- Cats aged 5 months and over are eligible.
- Dogs aged 6 months and over are eligible.
- Each household may have up to 2 pets spayed/neutered per year through our program.
- **Application Process:**
  - Applicants provide proof of income based on government-issued documents.
  - Appointments are typically booked 2 to 8 weeks in advance.
- **Impact:**
  - We anticipate assisting hundreds of animals and their guardians annually
  - By preventing unwanted litters, we contribute to a healthier pet population.
  - Families benefit from reduced veterinary costs and improved pet well-being.

**2025 Budget Overview** -- Please see our estimated budget for 2025 on Page 7

**WHAT WE NEED:**

We respectfully request your assistance in sustaining and expanding our program. If each municipality within Durham Region would contribute proportionately based on population, we could continue to serve our residents effectively. These funds would directly benefit pet owners in your community, ensuring that they can afford essential spay/neuter veterinary procedures.

We are reaching out to seek your support for our **Accessible, Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Veterinary Program** -- a compassionate and vital initiative that promises to enhance the welfare of our community's animals and assist our lower-income residents. Our proposal is for a modest funding allocation based on the latest census. This small investment from each municipality would yield significant returns in reducing the number of unwanted pets, controlling the stray population, and ultimately decreasing the financial burden on our animal shelters. By supporting this program, we are not only promoting responsible pet ownership but also fostering a healthier and safer community for all residents and their beloved animals.

We pledge transparency and accountability. Every dollar contributed will be used judiciously, with detailed financial records available for scrutiny at any time. Our team of dedicated veterinarians and volunteers ensures compassionate care for each pet.

## WHY SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM:

- **Public Health:** Unchecked pet populations can lead to increased disease and sanitation concerns. A spay/neuter program is a proactive step towards a cleaner, safer city.
- **Cost Savings:** The cost of managing and sheltering stray animals far exceeds the investment in a preventive program.
- **Community Compassion:** By supporting the pets of the less fortunate, we uplift the spirits of their owners and foster a culture of empathy and kindness.

Our program is a simple yet transformative initiative for the pets of our most vulnerable citizens. This is not merely an animal welfare issue; it's a public health strategy, a cost-saving measure and a moral imperative.

We ask each municipality within Durham Region to support our **Accessible, Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Veterinary Program** according to their population in Durham Region. We are asking for permanent, yearly funding starting in 2025 of just **\$0.05 per capita** as follows:

Est. Population Town of Ajax	131,054 (2024) x \$0.05 = \$6,552.70 to SNIP in 2025
Est. Population Township of Brock	13,809 (2022) x \$0.05 = \$ 690.45 to SNIP in 2025
Est. Population Municipality of Clarington	107,532 (2024) x \$0.05 = \$5,376.60 to SNIP in 2025
Est. Population City of Oshawa	185,692 (2024) x \$0.05 = \$9,284.60 to SNIP in 2025
Est. Population City of Pickering	103,920 (2024) x \$0.05 = \$5,196.00 to SNIP in 2025
Est. Population Township of Scugog (including the MSIFN Reserve)	21,694 (2024) x \$0.05 = \$1,084.70 to SNIP in 2025
Est. Population Township of Uxbridge	23,005 (2022) x \$0.05 = \$1,150.25 to SNIP in 2025
Est. Population Town of Whitby	144,955 (2024) x \$0.05 = \$7,247.75 to SNIP in 2025

*Please note the Town of Whitby has already supported our program with a \$5,000 grant for 2024. And the Township of Scugog has supported our Spay/Neuter Days to be held in Port Perry with a \$500 grant for 2024.*

Our large, diverse landscape is driving Durham Region as one of the fastest growing populations in Canada; with forecasted population growth to approximately one million residents by 2041. It is time now, that we add to our animal care services to offer accessible, lower-cost spay/neuter services for the pets of our financially marginalized and struggling families, seniors and unhoused residents.

The requested funds would be based on population numbers and allocated as follows:

- **Subsidized Procedures:** The funds will directly help subsidize low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for eligible pet owners. Funds received from a municipality will be used **only** to subsidize spay/neuter surgeries for the animals of residents in that municipality who are income qualified at application time. Should the funds for any year not be used in that year they will be brought forward to assist animals in the next year. Yearly reports will be sent to each municipality indicating the number of animals that have been helped and our observations on the level of need in that municipality.
- **Education and Outreach:** We conduct educational outreach campaigns and awareness programs to promote responsible pet care.
- **Operational Costs:** Administrative expenses, transportation, and program coordination require financial support.

## **Benefits to our Municipalities:**

1. Reduced Strain on Animal Services
2. Healthier Safer Community
3. Healthier Pets
4. Community Well-Being
5. Positive Public Perception

## **IN CONCLUSION:**

Supporting a low-cost spay/neuter program isn't just about compassion – it's a smart financial decision. By investing in the well-being of our community's animals, municipalities can simultaneously enhance public safety, reduce expenses, and create a more harmonious environment for all residents.

We propose a funding model based on the population of each municipality to ensure fairness and scalability. This approach ensures that each area contributes according to its capacity and benefits proportionally from the services provided. It's an investment in our shared future, fostering a more humane and responsible approach to pet ownership.

We urge each municipality in Durham Region to consider the long-term benefits and cost savings that this program will provide. Together, we can create a sustainable model that serves the needs of our communities and sets a precedent for others to follow.

Financially supporting our low-cost spay/neuter program for Durham Region aligns with responsible governance, financial prudence and community well-being ultimately enhancing council's reputation among resident voters.

We kindly request an opportunity to discuss this program further with you. Please feel free to reach out to us. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of our four-footed community members and their families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Martin Field, Board Chair  
[snipanimal2@gmail.com](mailto:snipanimal2@gmail.com)

Linda Power, Board President  
[lindapower@bell.net](mailto:lindapower@bell.net)

**Spay Neuter Initiatives Association**

**Proposed Budget for 2025 SNIP -- Accessible, Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Veterinary Program**

<b>REVENUE</b>		<i>Target number of spays/neuters for 2025 = 374</i>
<b><i>Estimated Clinical Services -- Client Fees</i></b>		
"Spay Day" Procedures	11,220	<i>Target is 11 spays/day@\$255 X 4 days per year</i>
"Neuter Day" Procedures	13,020	<i>Target is 21 neuters/day@\$155 X 4 days per year</i>
Accessible Vet Program -- Spays for Cats	21,420	<i>Target is 7 cat spays/month @\$255 X 12 months</i>
Accessible Vet Program -- Neuter for Cats	13,020	<i>Target is 7 cat neuters/month @\$155 X 12 months</i>
Accessible Vet Program -- Spay for Dogs	14,400	<i>Target is 3 dog spays/month @\$400 minimum X 12 months</i>
Accessible Vet Program -- Neuters for Dogs	9,000	<i>Target is 3 dog neuters/month @\$250 minimum X 12 months</i>
Accessible Vet Program -- X-Large Breed Dogs	3,900	<i>Target is 6 per year @\$650 minimum</i>
<b>Total Client Fees</b>	<b>85,980</b>	
<b><i>Sponsorships, Donations and Fundraising</i></b>		
Municipalities @\$0.05 per capita	36,583	
Individual/Business Donations/Grants	5,000	
Fundraising Events	5,000	
	<b>46,583</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>132,563</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Subsidies for animals of very low income and unhoused residents	26,200	<i>Estimated 70% of our lower-income applicants will need additional financial aid over and above the reduced program fees</i>
Veterinary Emergencies	12,000	
New E-Collars and Body Suits	720	
Office Supplies/Equipment/Vet. Software	12,000	
Website Maintenance	1,200	
Accommodation Fee for "S/N Day" Clinics	28,000	<i>\$3,500 per day -- 8 days per year (includes facility, all equipment, medications, Vet Techs and Admin Staff</i>
"S/N Day" Veterinary Fee Expenses	11,436	
Transport. Expenses for "S/N Day" Clinics	2,400	
Admin/Vol. Expenses for "S/N Day" Clinics	1,800	
Advertising and Promotional Expenses	3,000	
Fundraising Expenses	2,500	
Professional fees and other expenses	12,500	<i>Includes ins. banking fees, accounting/auditing</i>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>113,756</b>	
<b>ESTIMATED NET INCOME FOR 2025</b>	<b>18,807</b>	