



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The San Francisco SPCA and PetSmart Charities
Mark Spay Day USA with Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Surgeries for
Special Needs Pit Bull Terriers**

San Francisco, February 26, 2008: To mark the 14th annual Spay Day USA, February 26, 2008, The San Francisco SPCA and PetSmart Charities have joined together to offer low-cost spay/neuter services for special needs pit bull dogs. PetSmart Charities has been a major benefactor for animal welfare programs since 1994.

A PetSmart Charities Grant is being used to subsidize up to \$200 of the cost of a spay/neuter surgery at The SF/SPCA Animal Hospital for pit bull dogs that do not otherwise qualify for a low-cost procedure for medical reasons such as age, obesity, pregnancy or other medical issues. The SF/SPCA Spay/Neuter Clinic has altered approximately 130,000 cats and dogs since it opened in 1976. For an appointment call 415-554-3084.

Spay Day USA has been designated by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) as a national day of action to encourage people to spay or neuter their companion animals. As an added feature on this special day, The San Francisco SPCA has set up webcams in its Spay/Neuter Clinic so that people can view the surgery live on its website, www.sfspca.org.

Many people still haven't gotten the message that spaying or neutering their pets is the responsible thing to do! It's the most effective way to control and reduce dog and cat overpopulation by preventing the births of millions of unwanted animals each year, and it saves tax payers millions of dollars in animal control costs.

Spay/neuter surgery removes animals' reproductive organs so they can't have offspring: spaying removes the ovaries and uterus from female cats and dogs; neutering removes the testicles from male cats and dogs. The surgery is performed under anesthesia and is usually routine, with a short recovery period.

Spay Day also highlights the compelling health and behavior reasons for altering companion animals. Testicular, ovarian and uterine cancers are all prevented and the risk of breast cancer and prostate cancer is significantly reduced. And contrary to popular myth, spaying and neutering dogs and cats does not change their personalities or make them fat and lazy. Altered pets are more relaxed, and undesirable conduct such as marking, spraying, aggression, roaming and mating behaviors are all diminished.

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About The San Francisco SPCA

The San Francisco SPCA is a private, independent, nonprofit animal welfare organization dedicated to saving and protecting homeless dogs and cats, to providing them with care and treatment, advocating for animal welfare, and enhancing the human-animal bond. Founded in 1868, The SF/SPCA is a national leader in saving the lives of companion animals through its pioneering programs. For more information visit www.sfspca.org.

About PetSmart Charities

Since 1994, PetSmart Charities, Inc. (PCI) has helped save the lives of more than 3.2 million homeless pets and funded more than \$70 million to animal welfare organizations. PCI works to improve the quality of lives for companion animals by creating and supporting programs that save the lives of homeless pets, facilitating adoptions through in-store programs, raising awareness of companion animal welfare issues, and promoting healthy relationships between people and pets. To learn more about how PCI is working to help find a lifelong, loving home for every pet, visit www.PetSmartcharities.org or call 1-800-423-PETS.