



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.idph.state.il.us

October 21, 2007

Dear Honorable Gov. Rod Blagojevich and Members of the General Assembly:

In 2005, Gov. Rod Blagojevich and the General Assembly passed the Illinois Public Health and Safety Animal Population Control Act [510 ILCS 92], which created the Illinois Public Health and Safety Animal Population Control Act -- also known as "Anna's Law."

The legislation was named in memory of Anna Cieslewicz, who was attacked and killed by stray dogs in 2002 while jogging in Chicago's Dan Ryan Woods. The act was introduced as a means to protect the public safety by decreasing the number of dangerous dogs, stray dogs and feral cat populations throughout the state.

Section 20 of the Illinois Public Health and Safety Animal Population Control Act (510 ILCS 92) requires the director of public health to submit an annual written report regarding the progress of the Animal Population Control Program to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the house of Representatives, and the governor.

Background

The purpose of the Illinois Public Health and Safety Animal Population Control Program (Spay/Neuter Program) is *to reduce the population of unwanted and stray dogs and cats in Illinois by encouraging the owners of dogs and cats to have them permanently sexually sterilized and vaccinated, thereby reducing potential threats to public health and safety* [510 ILCS 92/20].

The program provides Illinois residents with a way to obtain low cost spay or neuter surgery for their household pets. In order to be eligible to participate, the individual must be an Illinois resident and participate in either the food stamps or Social Security disability income programs. All eligible program participants are required to fill out an application form and submit proof of eligibility.

The Department then reviews the application and, once approved, mails the application back to the citizen. The individual must take the approved application form to a veterinarian participating in the program. The act requires the individual to pay a \$15 co-pay when the surgery is performed. All other costs related to the surgical procedure

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and rabies vaccination are reimbursed by the Department. The veterinarian then submits the application and proof of the surgery to the Department for reimbursement.

Program Implementation

In December 2006, the Department contacted 2,930 veterinarians in the state (this represented all veterinarians currently registered with the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation) via a mass mailing. The mailing contained a registration form, as mandated by Section 30 of the Act, which would allow veterinarians to participate in the Program. The mailing also contained detailed information regarding the program. The Department also has distributed program information and applications to every local health department and all local offices maintained by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Currently, more than 140 veterinarians are participating in the program. These veterinarians represent 56 counties in Illinois. From January 2007 until June 19, 2007, 261 animals were approved to receive surgery under the program, representing a cost of \$36,160.

As required in Section 35 of the Act (510 ILCS 92/35), the Department has begun rulemaking for this program. The rules are currently being drafted and have been included in the Department's 2007 Regulatory Agenda.

Funding

The Animal Population Control Fund has a cash balance of more than \$332,000. During fiscal year 2007, the Illinois Department of Public Health had an appropriation of \$100,000. The fund receives revenue from various sources including: an income tax check-off, Pet Friendly license plate fees, fines collected from animal control agencies under the Animal Control Act, and voluntary contributions.

After conducting a statewide survey of the cost of spay/neuter operations within the state, as required by Section 30 of the Act, the Department adopted the following reimbursement fee schedule.

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Female Dogs

(or male dogs with retained testicles)

25 lbs or less - \$170

26 - 50 lbs - \$180

51 - 75 lbs - \$190

More than 75 lbs - \$200

Male Dogs

25 lbs or less - \$150

26 - 50 lbs - \$160

51 - 75 lbs - \$170


More than 75 lbs - \$180

Female Cats (any weight) - \$130

Male Cats (any weight) - \$100

Please contact Denise Gaines, Chief, Division of Governmental Affairs, at 217-782-6187 or TTY (for hearing impaired use only) 800-547-0466 if you have any questions about this program.

Sincerely,



Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H.

Director

C: Denise Gaines, IDPH, Governmental Affairs
Tom Hughes, IDPH, Office of Health Protection