

## **ASPCA GRANT REQUEST**

Funding request:           \$40,000 (no matching grant funding is requested)

Request funding to start up a Surrender Prevention Medical Care Fund to help pet owner(s) keep their pets who would otherwise have to surrender them to Animal Care because they cannot afford spaying/neutering and other veterinary care for their pet(s).

Based on Animal Care's intake figures for the last fiscal year and using the data from the 58 relinquishment surveys obtained, Animal Care estimates that approximately 35% of the dogs and cats surrendered to the shelter each year- roughly 800 animals- have the potential to be kept out of the shelter if medical services are offered to those pets. It is expected that some animals medical costs will be small (\$20) while others will be considerable (\$250+). With the assistance of Target Zero, who has considerable knowledge on Surrender Prevention costs, Animal Care estimates conservatively that the average cost of care for a surrender prevention pet will be \$50. For these reasons, Animal Care is requesting \$40,000 in grant funding (800 animals x \$50 each) to support the start-up of a Surrender Prevention Medical Fund.

The most cost-effective way to expand our surrender prevention program is to hire a part-time veterinarian that can be available to pet owners during intake hours and to offer immediate veterinary support if they are considering surrendering their pet. This fund would cover costs associated with veterinarian salary, medications, blood work, surgical supplies, vaccinations, and other medical items necessary for an animal to thrive. A veterinarian would also be helpful to assist good Samaritans who wish to keep and help an injured or ill pet they've found without turning it over to the shelter. Also, many good Samaritans are willing to help care for young kittens if they can have access to free medical support. Finally, if there are no immediate clients to help, this veterinarian would be able to assist with foster-to-surrender appointments and other shelter animal spay/neuter or medical needs.