

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Free Pet Transport Service for Northwest Spay & Neuter Center Patients

### Local nonprofit brings affordable spay and neuter to Grays Harbor County

Tacoma, WA: July 23, 2014—Animal lovers in Grays Harbor County have a new resource to help them care for their dogs and cats. In April, Tacoma-based nonprofit clinic Northwest Spay & Neuter Center launched an animal transport program, making it easier than ever for community members to take advantage of affordable, high-quality spay and neuter services for their pet cats and dogs—and for feral/free-roaming community cats. In June, the shuttle picked up its first load of patients from Grays Harbor County, in the town of McCleary. Of the 45 cats and dogs on the McCleary run, nearly all received reduced-fee or free surgery through Northwest Spay & Neuter Center's special programs for pet owners living on low incomes.

The animal shuttle picks up patients at designated locations and brings them to Tacoma for surgery in the organization's state-of-the-art facility. Patients are returned to their owners at the same locations the following morning. Appointments are required, "ensuring clients are never turned away due to lack of space," says Transport Coordinator Louise Adams. "We have room for more than eighty animals on the shuttle, with no restrictions on dog size. We are experienced at pediatric spay and neuter and routinely operate on patients as young as eight weeks old, as long as they weigh at least two pounds."

Initially, Northwest Spay & Neuter Center made one monthly visit to Grays Harbor County but it quickly became clear that demand would support two trips a month. On Monday, August 11, cats and dogs will be picked up at the SouthShore Mall in Aberdeen (1017 South Boone Street), and on Monday, August 25, the shuttle will pick up at the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds in Elma (32 Elma McCleary Road). Northwest Spay & Neuter Center thanks Aberdeen City Councilman Jeff Cook for his assistance in securing the Aberdeen pickup location. The Grays Harbor shuttle runs would not be possible without the collaboration of East County TNR, founded by Donna Cozad and Vicki Freeman Herrick, two dedicated rescuers who have previously made the long drive themselves to bring feral cats and kittens to Tacoma for surgery.

For more than six years, Northwest Spay & Neuter Center has increased access to spay and neuter services through a combination of affordable pricing and special reduced-fee and free programs for pets and feral/free-roaming community cats. However, cost is not the only challenge faced by people who want to have their animals altered. Many residents of rural areas cannot easily transport their animals to Tacoma without help.

Those interested in taking advantage of Northwest Spay & Neuter Center's upcoming shuttle runs to Grays Harbor County are encouraged to call (360) 470-8142 or (360) 249-3100. Prices for pet cats range from \$35 to \$50, and dogs range from \$70 to \$125. Reduced-fee and free programs are available for qualified individuals, feral cats, and pit bulls. More information about the transport program can be found at the Northwest Spay & Neuter Center website: <http://www.nwspayneuter.org/spay-neuter/animal-shuttle.htm>.

Community members who have information about areas in need of affordable spay/neuter services are encouraged to contact Louise Adams, Transport Coordinator, at (253) 627-7729 x217.

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Northwest Spay & Neuter Center promotes and provides affordable spay and neuter services for cats, dogs, and rabbits in an effort to stop the killing of animals due to overpopulation. It is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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