

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Northwest Spay & Neuter Center Announces New Executive Director

Melanie Manista-Rushforth to lead expansion of Tacoma nonprofit clinic

TACOMA, WA: October 7, 2014—Washington State's largest nonprofit spay and neuter clinic has hired a new Executive Director. Northwest Spay & Neuter Center staff and board are pleased to announce that Melanie Manista-Rushforth will join the team in advancing the organization's mission of saving lives through prevention, overseeing operations and networking in the community to ensure the clinic thrives as it expands programs to make affordable spay and neuter services accessible to all.

NWSNC President Jan Schwenger noted that through the selection process, the board and search committee were "impressed by Melanie's commitment and enthusiasm for the position and our organization." Manista-Rushforth, who assumes her duties October 14, most recently directed the Combined Federal Campaign in Pierce, Thurston, and Lewis Counties. Her dedication to building healthier, more functional communities is illustrated by service on an appointed advisory council for Secretaries of State Sam Reed and Kim Wyman and her role as a mentor for transitioning service members with the nonprofit Boots to Shoes Foundation. She is a board member of Tacoma Rotary 8, as well as the chair of the Military Affairs committee, and served on the board of the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County. Manista-Rushforth has been recognized as a 2009 South Sound 40 under 40 honoree, honored as an Art Popham nominee for building community collaboration and spirit in the South Puget Sound, and in 2010 received a Woman of Influence award for the Puget Sound region.

Manista-Rushforth founded Tacoma City Kids Marathon, and cites as the inspiration for creating that event the same principle that attracted her to NWSNC: prevention. "Preventative measures can cut down on future problems, whether it is the health and wellness of a person, an animal, or an entire community," she says. As Executive Director, she looks forward to bringing the energy and effective leadership for which she is known to NWSNC's efforts to save the lives of dogs, cats, and rabbits.

For over six years, Northwest Spay & Neuter Center has provided affordable, high-quality spay and neuter services for Washington pets. 2014 has seen several milestones for the organization. In April, NWSNC launched an animal shuttle to transport patients from under-served areas to the clinic for surgery. In July, the clinic altered its 55,000<sup>th</sup> patient, and in October a third veterinary team was hired and the clinic added Saturdays to its operating week. The organization is pleased and excited to welcome aboard a new Executive Director with an exemplary record of service and professional effectiveness.

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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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