



*... Saving Lives Through Prevention*

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*WHISKERS WINE & DINE SET FOR MARCH 16, 2013*

Annual Auction Benefits Local Pets, Celebrates Recent Expansion

TACOMA, WA- March 11, 2013- "It's hip to snip" is the rallying cry for local cats and dogs that will benefit from the ninth annual "Whiskers Wine & Dine" fundraiser, an auction and dinner that raises funds to help end pet overpopulation.

The auction will be held Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Sharon McGavick Conference Center in Lakewood and provides funding for Northwest Spay & Neuter Center (formerly known as Coalition: HUMAnE Spay & Neuter Clinic), a local nonprofit that provides affordable spaying and neutering for cats, dogs, and rabbits at its Tacoma clinic.

In January of 2013, the organization moved to a greatly expanded building that will allow the staff to perform up to 30,000 surgeries annually. It's estimated that the clinic has prevented the births of over 365,000 animals through spay and neuter since their inception in 2008. During that time, they are credited with reducing the killing rates of healthy, adoptable animals in Pierce County by a remarkable 40%, and have quickly become recognized as the largest provider of spay and neuter services in Washington State.

"In 2012 alone, we spayed or neutered 10,785 pets through a combination of affordable, reduced fee, and free programs and services," said Lorrie Kalmbach-Ehlers, Northwest Spay & Neuter Center's Executive Director. "These programs are funded through generous donors who understand the need for affordable spaying and neutering in our community, and through collaborative efforts with partners such as the Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County."

Reservations for the "Whiskers Wine & Dine" auction are \$60 per person and include dinner as well as the opportunity to bid at silent, live, and dessert auctions. To purchase a ticket, visit [www.nwspayneuter.org](http://www.nwspayneuter.org) or contact the clinic at 253-627-7729.

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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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