

animals

Clinic helps control pet population

Elaine White

Current estimates in the United States indicate homeless dogs and cats outnumber homeless people 5 to 1. Every day 70,000 dogs and cats are born in this country, while 6 to 8 million pets enter animal shelters each year. Of those placed in shelters, only 10 percent have been spayed or neutered. (Figures gathered from sources on the Internet including the Humane Society, ASPCA, and DoSomething.org.)

Peak View Animal Hospital, located south of Fowler, serves as an animal shelter for the towns of Fowler and Crowley and does its part to help alleviate pet overpopulation on a local level by offering low cost, and in some cases free, spay and neutering for both dogs and cats in the Arkansas Valley. This service is made possible due, in part, to an annual grant from the Colorado Pet Overpopulation Fund and is available to surrounding areas in a mobile unit which travels to Fowler, Avondale, Ordway, and Rocky Ford on a rotating schedule. Olney Springs residents also qualify but must utilize the service at the clinic on the specified day. (Please see complete schedule accompanying this article.) Surgeries at the mobile unit are half off, or free to anyone earning less than \$15,000 annually or on any government assistance programs, and will be performed on a first come, first served basis to the first 10 walk-ins.

Low cost vaccinations, heartworm testing, and general veterinary care will also be offered on a walk-in basis. An exam fee of \$28 and fees for other discounted veterinary services will apply.

In addition to grants, Peak View accepts donations to their Hardship Fund which helps offset the cost of veterinary services, including spay or neutering, for pet owners who need assistance. Donations may also be made to the Arkansas Valley Spay and Neuter Alliance (AVSNA). Any size donation helps spay or neuter a pet. Contact the clinic if you would like to help out.

Peak View's Richard Leone, DVM, explains their shelter is what is known as a "no kill" facility meaning animals placed with them are not euthanized unless they are aggressive or critically ill. Peak View serves as a shelter for only the towns of Crowley and Fowler and is only able to accept stray animals from law enforcement or animal control agents in those municipalities. Leone encourages people in the area who have lost a pet to check with Peak View in case the animal has been brought there.

In other news at Peak View Animal Hospital, February is National Pet Dental Health Month, and the clinic is offering discounted teeth cleaning for dogs and cats. The discount does not include the price of exams or extractions, only the anesthetic and cleaning.

Mobile Schedule (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

n 2nd Tuesday of the month: Avondale in lot across from Loaf 'N Jug on Highway 50

n 3rd Tuesday of the month: Ordway at Town Hall on Main Street

n 4th Tuesday of the month: Olney Springs residents must make appointment for services to be performed at Peak View Animal Hospital, 1050 Road JJ, Fowler, (719) 263-4321.

n 5th Tuesday of the month: Fowler at Red Top Liquor on Highway 50

n Every Thursday: Rocky Ford in parking lot at Van Dyke Insurance Agency, 1006 Elm Ave.