



High-Quality, High-Volume Spay-Neuter Services

Last reviewed August 2020

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians believes that high-quality, high-volume spay-neuter (HQHVSN) programs serve a critical role in preventing reproduction and reducing subsequent animal overpopulation, shelter intake, and euthanasia. The ASV defines HQHVSN services as efficient surgical initiatives that meet or exceed veterinary standards of care in providing accessible, targeted sterilization of large numbers of animals. HQHVSN clinics should follow the most current Association of Shelter Veterinarians' Veterinary Medical Care Guidelines for Spay-Neuter Programs¹.

HQHVSN programs should focus on underserved communities and overpopulated animal populations including those that are free-roaming, reside within shelters or rescue organizations, or belong to owners otherwise unable to access veterinary care. These clients may not be able to access traditional veterinary services due to cost, transportation, scheduling, or other challenges.^{2,3} Public HQHVSN services improve animal welfare and keep pets in their homes, decreasing shelter intake.²⁻⁴ Both HQHVSN clinics and private practice veterinary clinics can thrive within a community, since HQHVSN clinics can also serve as a gateway to veterinary care for those who would otherwise not take their pets to a veterinarian².

References

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2. White S, Scarlett JM, Levy JK. Characteristics of clients and animals served by high-volume, stationary, nonprofit spay-neuter clinics. *J Am Vet Med Assoc.* 2018;253(6):737-745
3. Bushby PA. High-quality, high-volume spay-neuter: Access to care and the challenge to private practitioners. *J Feline Med Surg.* 2020;22(3):208-215
4. Houlihan KE. A literature review on the welfare implications of gonadectomy of dogs. *J Am Vet Med Assoc.* 2017;250(10): 1155-1166

The mission of the ASV is to advance and support the practice of shelter medicine in order to improve community animal health and well-being.