Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Veterinary Division

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TO: COUNTY MANAGERS & AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THE SPAY/NEUTER REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

FROM: LEE HUNTER, ANIMAL WELFARE SECTION, SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM TO NCDA&CS
LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

Effective 1 October 2010 the Spay/Neuter Program will move from the Veterinary Public Health Program, NC Department of Health and Human Services to the Animal Welfare Section, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with information about the change over, give you the contact information for the Spay/Neuter Program after the transfer & to notify you of various legislative changes to the Program.

NCDA&CS is working closely with NC DHHS to effect the transfer as smoothly as possible. While the Veterinary Public Health Program and the Animal Welfare Section work together on many issues this will be the first transfer of responsibilities. While we do not anticipate problems we recognize that the unexpected should be expected. If there are problems both the VPH Program and the AW Section promise to resolve them as quickly and painlessly as possible.

The Animal Spay/Neuter Program will have a new web address after 1 October 2010 – www.ncspayneuter.com Though that URL is now live it will not be the official address until the date the program is transferred.

When the Spay/Neuter Program is transferred the contact information will change as well. The new contact information will be:

Spay/Neuter Program
1030 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1030
phone: 919-715-7111 FAX: 919-733-6431
email: agr.aws@ncagr.gov

Requests for reimbursement will be made through NCDA&CS effective with the 3rd Quarter, 2010. Forms for reimbursement will be on the new web site by the end of the 3rd Quarter.

In addition to the transfer of the Program to NCDA&CS the Legislature made other changes that will be effective on 1 October 2010:

- 19A-63 (b) – the definition of "low income" will change to "an individual who qualifies for one or more of the programs of public assistance administered by [DHHS] pursuant to Chapter 108A **or whose annual household income is under 300% of the federal poverty level guidelines published by the US Department of Health and Human Services.**"

- 19A-63 (c) – **Each county shall make rules or public guidelines that designate what proof a low-income person must submit to establish that the person qualifies for public assistance under subsection (b) ... or has an annual household income lower than 300% of the federal poverty level guidelines published by the US Department of Health and Human Services.**

At this time NCDA&CS does not anticipate requiring you to provide us with those guidelines.

You should maintain proof of eligibility for every procedure for which you are seeking reimbursement. NCDA&CS reserves the right to conduct periodic random audits or as circumstances dictate.

- Since its inception the Spay/Neuter Fund calculated reimbursements within tier groups using proportions using rabies vaccination numbers. The Legislature rewrote 19A-64 (c) 2 & 3 to require NCDA&CS to write new rules to determine the calculations used in reimbursement. Until those new rules are in approved and part of the Administrative Code, reimbursement will continue using the current formula.

- 19A-65 – Previously, shelters required to report required statistical data for each calendar year had until the following 1 August to report. The statute has been changed to require that statistical data for the calendar year be reported by 1 March instead. It also requires that the report be made in the form required by NCDA&CS. That form will be on the new web site before that time. The Department will explore electronic data reporting as an alternative to paper forms.

- If a city or county does not file the annual report data as required the city or county is not eligible to receive reimbursement payments during the calendar year in which it was supposed to be filed.

- 19A-66 – NCDA&CS is required to notify cities and counties of the amount of funding eligible for reimbursement by the Spay/Neuter Account prior to 1 January of each year and the amount of additional funding the Department estimates but does not guarantee to be available. Because the Spay/Neuter Account will be funded by voluntary purchases (I Care automobile license plate) and any other funds available from appropriations by the General Assembly it is anticipated that the majority of the funding will be fluctuant and subject to change.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything in this memo please feel free to contact me.