

## Statement of Understanding

*For spay/neuter procedures*

If you choose to have your pet spayed or neutered by SICSA please understand that this “low cost” program & procedure has been designed to help people who are financially unable to use the preferred services of a local veterinarian. We fully believe that pet owners should establish a relationship with a local veterinarian for all of their veterinary needs!

If you cannot afford to have your animal altered by a full service veterinarian and you have chosen to use our low income services, then thank you for choosing to have your pet spayed or neutered. Dog and cat overpopulation is a serious problem in our community. By preventing your dog or cat from reproducing, you may save the lives of countless animals! In addition, this surgery will allow your pets to live a longer and healthier life with fewer behavioral issues.

It is important for you to understand that this spay/neuter procedure is not the only thing you need to do to provide for your pet’s health and well-being. A spay or a neuter is simply a procedure to prevent reproduction! In order to maximize the health and well-being of your pet, you should provide:

- ✓ High quality nutrition,
- ✓ Fresh, clean, drinkable water
- ✓ A comfortable, safe shelter (like your home) for protection from the elements
- ✓ A loving and structured environment
- ✓ Proper identification
  - A County dog license for dogs (required by law)
  - A tag with your animals name and your contact information
  - An implanted microchip for permanent identification (Note: we use a single frequency (125 kHz) microchip made by “24 Pet Watch”. We have been able to contract a purchase price for this microchip for under \$10 because we are a nonprofit agency. Unfortunately, your veterinarian is unable to purchase any type of microchip for this price)
- ✓ A long term relationship with a veterinarian in your community (this is like having a family doctor for your pet...they are familiar with you and your pets medical history)
  - They help oversee the health of your pet throughout its entire life
  - They offer annual wellness exams for necessary vaccines, parasite prevention, nutrition and behavior advice. Annual exams can detect early health problems leading to quicker treatment ....as animals age at a much faster rate than people
  - They are vital in emergency situations.
    - When you need a vet, you can rely on the one that knows your pet the best.

The veterinarians who will perform this procedure on your pet(s) are fully licensed veterinarians that are assisted by well trained veterinary technician assistants. Their purpose is to perform the spay/neuter procedure. They are not here to discuss the overall health of your pet with you. Again, we highly recommend that you find a veterinarian in the community to help you with the long term care of your pet.

As you know, we are able to offer a lower price than local veterinarians for the spay/neuter procedure. Our costs are lower for the following reasons:

1. Monitoring is done visually and tactilely compared to many clinics that have extensive monitoring devices such as ECG, pulse oximeters, & blood pressure.
2. We do not do pre-surgical blood work.
3. We do not offer fluid therapy unless there is an emergency.
4. We do not offer overnight hospital stays.
5. Appropriate anesthetics, sterile technique and pain medications are used in every case but we do not provide pain medications for you to take home post-operatively.
6. Our follow-up care is limited to the first two weeks of post operative care and prescribed medications only.
7. We are a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization.