

For Immediate Release:

Low-Cost, High-Quality, Spay/Neuter Services Now Available to Low-Income Pet Owners in the Chisago County / East Central Minnesota area

Free Transport to Duluth Clinic Available from Northwoods Humane Society.

A low-cost, high-quality spay/neuter clinic for pets in households earning less than \$40,000 per year opened in Duluth on October 19, 2009. Beginning in 2010, qualifying pet owners in East Central/Chisago County area can bring their animals to Northwoods Humane Society to take advantage of a service that transports pets to and from the clinic at no charge.

"We are proud to partner with Northwoods Humane Society to make our low-cost, high quality services available to low- and middle-income pet owners in East Central Minnesota," said Dr. Amanda Bruce, the veterinarian owner of Northland Spay/Neuter Clinic-the first spay/neuter clinic in Minnesota to include services to privately owned animals.

The purpose of the new clinic is to reduce regional shelter euthanasia by providing spaying and neutering services to shelters and pet owners who would not otherwise be able to sterilize their pets. According to a 2008 survey conducted by Animal Allies Humane Society in Duluth, more than 2,000, mostly healthy pets have to be euthanized in regional shelters each year.

The cost to spay or neuter a privately owned pet at the new clinic ranges from \$39 to \$89 depending on sex, species, and weight.

To make an appointment, call Northwoods Humane Society at 651-982-0240 between 10:00am and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. Pets will be picked up at NHS. After surgery, pets will be recovered overnight at Northland Spay/Neuter, checked early the next morning, and then transported back to NHS. Transport is provided free of charge by Animal Allies Humane Society, a Duluth-based non-profit that provides financial and administrative support for the new service. Northwoods Humane Society has pick-up days scheduled each month for 2010.

For pet owners, the biggest difference between Northland Spay/Neuter and a general practice clinic will be the narrow scope of service. Beyond spay-neuter, Dr. Bruce will provide a few vaccinations and micro-chipping but only for animals undergoing sterilization and only at the time of surgery. Dr. Bruce will be available to talk with pet owners pre- and post-surgery, but there will not be the same ongoing personal relationship found in a general practice clinic.

"It is extremely important that pet owners establish a relationship with a general practice veterinarian for the life of their pet," says Dr. Bruce. "We will strongly encourage the pet owners we serve, many of whom will be seeing a veterinarian for the first time, to contact one of our excellent local vet clinics and make this critical commitment."

Northland Spay/Neuter will be open year-round, five days per week, Monday to Friday. Services are available by appointment only. For more information, go to www.northlandspayneuter.org.

Northwoods Humane Society: *Where broken hearts are healed with second chances. Our Mission: Caring for animals in need. The homeless, strays, abused, neglected, lost. Heal them, love them, help them find a*

home.

Northland Spay/Neuter Clinic is an independent veterinary practice owned by Dr. Amanda Bruce, DVM.

Animal Allies Humane Society is a non-profit organization that strives to ensure a lifetime of loving care for every pet by increasing adoption, decreasing overpopulation, and fostering humane values.

Media Contacts:

For information about local pick-up days: Mardi Ruddy ext 10
Northwoods Humane Society
7153 Lake Blvd (Hwy 8)
Wyoming, MN 55092
(651) 982-0240
www.northwoodshs.org

For information about medical care, call: Dr. Amanda Bruce, DVM
Northland Spay/Neuter Clinic, PLLC
(218) 623-6342
(218) 940-3605
drbruce@nothlandspayneuter.org

For information about the partnership between regional humane societies and Northland Spay/Neuter Clinic, PLLC, call:

Jim Filby Williams, Executive Director
Animal Allies Humane Society
(218) 722-1269
(218) 340-0791
jim@animalallies.net