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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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SpayStreet Waco Program Approaches 1-Year Goal for Surgeries, Microchips

Waco, Texas (July 11, 2014) – The City of Waco’s volunteer-based SpayStreet Waco Program has been very successful in reaching out to the pets of low-income citizens for free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and microchips for their pets in the past few months. Thanks to the dedication of our community partners and volunteers, as well as our Animal Control Officers, to date, the program has provided funding for over 1,500 surgeries. Our first year goal is 1,800 surgeries, thanks to a \$100,000 grant awarded by the Waco City Council.

Funding is still available for free and low-cost surgeries for the pets of Waco residents. A voucher can be obtained numerous ways – with proof of residency by calling 752-SPAY (7729) and select option 1, calling the Animal Birth Control Clinic (ABC Clinic) at 254-776-7303, or by visiting the lobby of the Waco Police Department Headquarters at 3115 Pine Avenue.

Outreach efforts have included educating citizens about the value of responsible pet ownership while providing resources for free and low-cost spay/neuter and microchip to keep their pets in compliance with the law. The SpayStreet Waco effort also addresses strays in our community, and volunteers will continue to assist in getting homeless dogs and cats spayed or neutered and adopted into good homes.

“This program, along with the on-going efforts of the ABC Clinic, has been the key factor in reducing our intake at the shelter and keeping our live exit numbers on the rise,” said Wiley Stem, Assistant City Manager. “There is still much spay/neuter education to be done and opportunities for us to interact with pet owners to encourage responsible pet ownership.” Don Bland, Director of the Humane Society of Central Texas said, “With the early success we’ve had, and the support of our community we will now be able to dramatically improve the shelter environment for the remaining animals that require temporary care at our City of Waco Animal Facility.”

Spaying and neutering pets is one of the most effective ways to bring our shelter population down and move us forward in our goal to be a no-kill community. It is also a proven way to improve the quality of life of our community’s animals and the health and safety of our citizens.

(The spay/neuter and microchip law went into effect January 1, 2014. The ordinance can be viewed online at: waco-texas.com.)

For more information on the SpayStreet Waco program, visit the website at: spaystreetwaco.com, call 752-SPAY (7729) and choose option 1; or find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/spaystreetwaco](https://www.facebook.com/spaystreetwaco).

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