

Ask your state representatives NOW to make WVSNP Permanent

Bottom line: The West Virginia Spay Neuter Program (WV Code 19-20C), passed in 2013 and funded in 2017, has proven its worth in both reduced pet overpopulation and economic benefit. **But this valuable program will sunset in 2027 without additional legislative action.** Here's why we need everyone to contact their representatives during the 2025 legislative session.

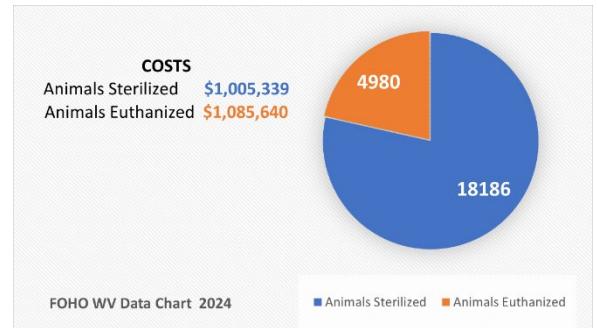
WVSNP accomplishes SIX financial and logistical objectives:

(1) Funding comes from a small fee paid by pet food companies doing business in West Virginia, **not from taxpayer dollars.**

(2) WVSNP generates approximately \$450,000 per year administered by the WV Department of Agriculture.

(3) WVSNP funds are awarded to qualifying animal welfare organizations, non-profit and government, who direct that money to West Virginia veterinarians whose clinics perform the actual service.

(4) Intakes and euthanasia of homeless pets are in a steady decline, (5) Fewer homeless pets mean less compassion fatigue and work-related stress for animal advocates and animal control staff who must cope with the horrible consequences of pet overpopulation, and (6) Fewer homeless animals in county shelters results in fewer taxpayer dollars being spent on animal control, housing, and EUTHANASIA.



WVSNP FUND BENEFITS:

- Original WVSNP legislation passed with massive bipartisan legislative support, only 17 dissenters. Despite the \$900,000 initial funding request being reduced by about half and a 2027 sunset provision being added, more than 70,000 dogs and cats have been altered in our state in nearly all counties by the WV Spay neuter Program. WVSNP has still whittled euthanasia instances to nearly 50% of what existed in 2013.
- In fact, impressed by our state's success, one private foundation added a total of \$1,350,000 to the WVSNP budget spread over three years. If WVSNP is allowed to end, West Virginia will LOSE future grant opportunities from like-minded philanthropists and foundations.

LEGISLATION IS NEEDED IN 2025 - MAKE THE FUNDING PERMANENT

Support proposed legislation to remove sunset provision from WV Code §19-14-5 Permits; registration providing funding for the WV State Spay Neuter Grant Program. (Passed into law in 2017 by HB2552)

In round numbers, according to the WV Board of Veterinary Medicine DATA RECORDS:

- Shelter intake and euthanasia rates plummeted from 52,000 in 2013 to 32,000 intakes in 2023 and
- Euthanasia rates fell from 20,000 to 5,000 in the same period, resulting in 38% fewer intakes and 75% fewer euthanasia.
- WVSNP's funding that altered over 70,000 dogs and cats since 2018.

The number of homeless animals is on a steady decline in West Virginia.

Let's REWARD WVSNP's fiscal and logistical stewardship and progress with permanent status.

As submitted by Barbara Grigg from Bless the Pets brbrgrgg@gmail.com

Additional information courtesy of The Federation of Humane Organizations of West Virginia - <https://fohowv.org> and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture - <https://agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/animal-health/west-virginia-spay-and-neuter-assistance-program/>