McDonough County Pet Population Control Assistance Program

What is Pet Population Control Assistance?

In 2005 the Illinois General Assembly passed the Illinois Public Health and Safety Animal Population Control Act (510 ILCS 92). The Act was introduced to promote spaying and neutering of domestic animals. Spaying and neutering reduces populations of unwanted, stray and dangerous dogs and feral cats.

The Act created the Illinois Public Health and Safety Animal Population Control Program. Special fees set aside from dog registrations are designated to assist income-eligible pet owners to spay or neuter their pets. Under the legislation, counties may establish their own programs to promote spaying and neutering of cats and dogs within the county. McDonough County has established such a program through the 2012 McDonough County Pet Population Control Assistance Fund Ordinance.

Who is Eligible for Assistance through the McDonough County Program?

To qualify for assistance if you must be a resident of McDonough County and the owner of a cat or dog that is not spayed or neutered.

In addition you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Receive or are INCOME-ELIGIBLE for food stamps (SNAP)
- Receive SSI
- Receive SSDI

A copy of a SSA Notice of Decision, Notice of Award, or a letter from the local food stamp office is acceptable as proof of eligibility.
If you are income-eligible for food stamps, but do not receive them, a copy of your most recent income tax return showing adjusted gross income and number of persons in household is required.

McDonough County residents who manage a feral cat colony may also apply for assistance. A letter from a public official is required to verify status.

**Application forms are available in McDonough County Treasurer's Office, first floor, County Courthouse, also at the McDonough County Animal Shelter and at participating veterinarian's offices.**

**Completed application and supporting documentation are to be submitted to the McDonough County Treasurer's Office.**

For further information call
McDonough Co. Treasurer
309-833-2032
or
McDonough Co. Animal Shelter
309-837-2989

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**Why spay or neuter your pet?**

- A long-term benefit of spaying and neutering is better health for your pet.
- Overpopulation and unwanted pets place burdens on animal shelters.
- Not enough willing adopters are available for all shelter animals; some have to be euthanized.
- Feral cats hunt, often killing song birds and small game.
- Stray dogs are not vaccinated for rabies or other diseases and may present a danger to public health and safety.
- Stray dogs may gather to hunt in packs and be threatening to livestock and people.

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**Participating McDonough County Veterinarians:**

- **All Pets Veterinary Clinic**
  Drs. K. Blakeley/J. McClure
  722 W Jackson St
  Macomb, IL 61455
  309-833-2365

- **Animal Medical Center**
  Drs. L. Loop/C. Lotz
  100 S Dudley St.
  Macomb, IL 61455
  309-833-5960

- **Bushnell Veterinary Service**
  Drs. A. Barclay/J. Huston/
  S. McKim/T. Grandt
  Junction Routes 9 & 41
  Bushnell, IL 61422
  309-772-2411

- **Blandinsville Veterinary Clinic**
  Dr. Wright
  955 E. Washington St.
  Blandinsville, IL 61420
  309-652-3121

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A program to assist income-eligible cat and dog owners spay or neuter their pets.