

## Northwoods Humane society – Deanna Persson

In the most recent round of giving by the 100 Who Care – Sawyer County, the Northwoods Humane Society was one of 3 organization considered for the quarterly \$10,000 gift. Sadly we were not selected.

NorthLakes Community Clinic is the founding organization and host of the 100 Who Care Sawyer County Chapter. The 100 Who Care Alliance is a national movement based on the simple and powerful giving circle concept. A giving circle is individuals coming together, pooling their dollars, learning collaboratively about their community's needs, and deciding where to give the money. NorthLakes Community Clinic has adopted this philanthropic model to help neighboring nonprofits who partner in removing barriers to well-being and assisting the community. Each member donates \$300 a year and three times a year three organizations are selected for consideration. These three do an in- person presentation and they then vote for the recipient of the \$10,000.

Even though we were not selected for the monetary gift, it did give us an opportunity to share our organization and to talk about the need for spay and neutering in our community. NHS identified the use for the \$10,000 to be used for spay and neutering of animals owned by low income or fixed income.

The cost of a dog spay can range from \$225 to \$450 depending on weight. If the female is in heat an additional \$200 is charged. A canine neuter is \$200 to \$350. All are charged a rabies fee of \$27 to \$35. A feline spay will run \$225 to \$250 and feline neuter is \$100 to \$150. Prices vary by vet clinics in our area.

The Northwoods Humane Society has been very pro-active in our work to ensure spay and neutering of our shelter animals and owned animals in our community, preventing homelessness since 1989. It is essential that we keep this a priority. Unwanted litters of puppies and kittens often suffer gross neglect, freezing to death, starvation, they become victims of predators or become a part of a feral population – which is hellish way to live.

Spay and Neutering also prevents uterine issues, mammary gland tumors, testicular cancer. Messy heat cycles, male cats spraying. It can decrease instinctive aggressiveness in male dogs, make your pet a little more cuddly, and decrease the desire to wander.

Cats can become pregnant at 4 months and have 2 to 3 litters a year. Dogs can become pregnant as early as 6 months for small breeds and can have up to 3 to 12 puppies while larger breeds need to be more mature and may have 1 to 6 puppies. They can have two litters a year.

We find that pet owners want to do the right thing for their animals. If your income is stretched to the limit, other needs come before spay and neutering. Low income and fixed income may apply to the NHS Spay and Neuter outreach program by going on line and complete an application or by calling the shelter at 715-634-5394. Clients may select the vet of their choice.

Doing the 'right thing' for your pets often requires financial assistance and sometimes transportation. We work to provide both.

I was asked at the 100 Who Care event how many animals can be spayed or neutered for \$10,000. If the average cost was \$250 per animal, we would be able to alter 40 animals. Those 40 are important but

the main thing to remember is that they are not going to be reproducing and we cannot not know the number of animals that will be save from homelessness and suffering.

Two breeding pair of cats can exponentially produce 420,00 cats in 7 years. Monies invested in the spay and neutering of animals is money well spent.

Date to Save: August 30 – Friday – BARK And Roll and Cat's Meow Auction– Sawmill Saloon 6:30 pm.

Tickets now on sale – NHS Shelter and Thrift Shop, Art Beat, Redbery Books – Cable and Sawmill Saloon!