



May 14, 2007

**For Immediate Release:**

Companion Animal Clinic of the Sandhills (CAC) has received a gift of \$50,000.00 from Animal Advocates of Moore County, Incorporated to be used to help outfit the new Companion Animal spay/neuter clinic located on Highway U.S. 1 North in Vass.

The donation marks a joint commitment by the Board of Directors of Animal Advocates and the Companion Animal Clinic Board of Directors to meet the challenge of controlling the animal overpopulation problem in the Sandhills.

“CAC’s sole mission is to provide low-cost spay/neuter in a nine county area as a means to control animal overpopulation. We are striking at the root of the problem,” said Deborah Wilson, President of CAC. “We are excited to join forces with Animal Advocates to work towards a common goal of prevention of unwanted animals. The gift from Animal Advocates will help us reach our goal of opening the first low-cost spay/neuter clinic in the area.”

“Our board is very happy to present the Companion Animal Clinic with a check for \$50,000 to speed up the clinic’s opening date. We also want our many loyal members to understand that the money we are donating was a gift to Animal Advocates of Moore County (AAMC) from the estate of Mrs. Francis K. Trees,” said Maureen Burke-Horansky, President of Animal Advocates, a local animal-welfare organization.

“Francis was an animal lover extraordinaire, and we were blessed to meet her when someone stole her dog. Little did we know that the act of helping re-unite Francis with her dog would lead her to donate a large amount of money to AAMC upon her death for the purpose of furthering our spay/neuter initiative,” said Burke-Horansky.”

“Animal Advocates has been doing spays and neuters for the pets of low income and disabled residents for four years. We charge the residents a small fee, which we know they can afford and AAMC subsidizes the remainder. We have sterilized over 3000 dogs and cats to date. We have always believed that the only way to stop the pet overpopulation problem is through spaying and neutering,” said Burke-Horansky. “We are delighted and excited to help CAC accomplish the goal of opening a spay/neuter clinic.”

Companion Animal Clinic will charge \$35.00 for male cats and \$45.00 for all others. “Based on research, we need to do 25 spay/neuters a day, five days a week to insure that CAC is cost effective. Animal welfare groups and animal control centers in the nine counties have an on-going need for low-cost spay/neuter,” said Deborah Wilson, President of CAC. “Because animal welfare groups and public shelters are overwhelmed with animals, we anticipate that we will be at capacity quickly. CAC will enable animal shelters to concentrate on adoption by providing low-cost spay/neuter. Eventually we will be able to significantly reduce the numbers of animals coming into shelters by these proactive measures,” said Wilson.

CAC will serve a nine-county region including Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Chatham, Richmond, Randolph, Moore, Montgomery and Lee. CAC will have a vehicle to provide pick-up and delivery of animals for groups.

Renovations to the CAC building are now underway to convert it into a state-of-the-art spay/neuter clinic. Companion Animal Clinic will only offer spay/neuter services. It is not a shelter and it is not a boarding facility. CAC will have its own staff of veterinarians and veterinary technicians and is currently in the process of hiring for these positions.

For more information, go to the CAC web site at [www.companionanimalclinic.org](http://www.companionanimalclinic.org) or call the clinic at 692-FIXX (3499).

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