



**Avoid  
Holiday  
Hazards**  
See Page 2



**Donate Shelter  
Equipment &  
Supplies**  
See Page 11

## CLACKAMAS COUNTY DOG SERVICES | FALL 2011

*Serving and protecting the people and pets of Clackamas County in a professional and courteous manner*

# DOG Notes News

In our summer issue we looked at what a dangerous dog is, and factors that can contribute to a dog's tendency to bite. Over the next several issues, we will take a closer look at each of these issues.

## What's that? Who are you? Where are we? ...am I OK?

**Socialization...what it is, what it shouldn't be, and what it can do for your dog.**

The motivation behind nearly all dog bites is fear-related. Dogs feel uncomfortable, anxious or worried, and communicate these feelings in the only language they are fluent in – DOG. While dogs pay keen attention to our body language, we seem to have lost our ability or willingness to take note of theirs. Consequently, our dogs' efforts to communicate their fears and apprehensions

The third developmental period in puppies is socialization, lasting from three weeks to three months of age. It serves as a learning "pressure chamber" to prepare puppies to function in their world as an adult. It shows puppies what "normal" and "safe" things are, as well as what is scary, dangerous, and to be avoided.



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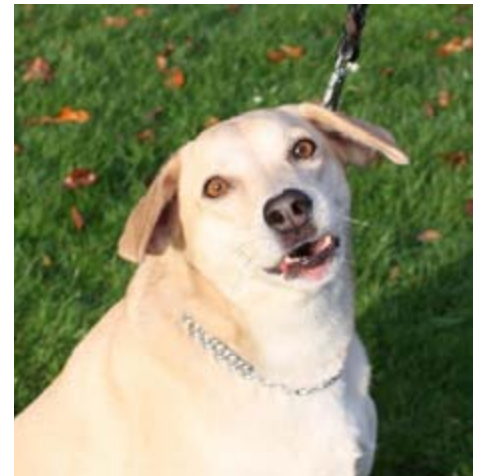
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*Being conscious of your dog's body language can help you know how it is feeling in a situation.*

most often fall on deaf ears and blind eyes. When people don't hear us, we speak louder; when a dog feels unheard at one level of communication, they turn up their volume, which can mean a snarl, growl, or bite. While most dogs are uncomfortable with close physical contact (like hugs), it is the under-socialized dog that is going to feel the most pressure from such unwanted advances, and as a result, is one of the most likely to bite.

The effects of experiences during this period are far more profound and longer lasting effect on a dog than at any other time of life. A puppy that learns during this period to really enjoy children will have a much greater tolerance for them compared to a dog that is not exposed to children until later in life, even if this exposure is enjoyable. Conversely, a pup that never meets children is unlikely to have an affinity for them as adults.

*continued on page 9*



# Doc Talk

## Holiday Hazards

Notes from  
Dr. Lora Geisler, DVM

With the holidays right around the corner, here are a few suggestions for keeping your pets safe in the upcoming months.

Since many holiday parties and celebrations include candy and chocolate, alcoholic beverages, costumes, decorations, food, decorative plants and houseguests, I'd like to touch on each of these potential hazards.

**Keep candy and chocolate away from pets.** Candy wrappers can cause an upset stomach if they are eaten. Dark, unsweetened, bittersweet chocolate is particularly toxic to pets, especially dogs that are more prone to eat it. Call your veterinarian or an animal poison control center if your dog eats chocolate, as treatment may be needed immediately. Symptoms include: nervousness, excitement, trembling, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle spasms, seizures and excessive thirst or urination.

**Candy, gum or breath fresheners that contain xylitol** should be kept out of reach of your pets. Xylitol is a sweetener that can cause a quick and dangerous drop in blood sugar as it creates an insulin surge. Liver damage has been associated with xylitol ingestion. If your pet ingests even a small amount of xylitol, call your vet or animal poison control center immediately.

**Alcohol or alcoholic beverage** ingestion can cause a dangerous drop in blood sugar, blood pressure and body temperature as alcohol is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream and affects pets very quickly. Intoxicated pets can experience respiratory failure and seizures.

Other potential hazards are **costumes**. Some pets may become stressed when wearing costumes and others don't mind "dressing up". If you insist your pet wear a costume, make sure it fits well and doesn't hinder breathing, movement or vision. Have your pet wear it several times prior to the event to become comfortable in it.

**Decorations**, when eaten, can cause stomach upset or worse, internal injury. So keep them out of reach of your pets. Tinsel,

breakable ornaments, light strands, fake cobwebs, candles, electric cords are all invitations to chew in the eyes of your pet especially puppies and kittens, and all are potential hazards. Avoid items like buttons, mothballs, alkaline batteries, paints and pennies, since these can be harmful if swallowed.

**Holiday food** soon turns into leftovers and leftovers can be a hazard as turkey and chicken have little bones or fragments that can lodge in the esophagus, stomach or intestines. Fatty leftovers can cause a serious disease called pancreatitis, or inflammation of the pancreas, and it can be fatal. Other foods like fruitcake that are made with raisins and currants are harmful. Onions, grapes, avocado, macadamia nuts and garlic are potentially harmful if ingested and should be avoided. Also, remember to keep pets away from the kitchen area while you are cooking, especially birds - fumes released from non-stick cookware and self-cleaning ovens can be harmful.

During the holidays, certain **plants** are used for decorations, like poinsettias, lilies, Christmas trees, holly and mistletoe and others. Many of these plants can cause gastrointestinal upset if eaten and some are fatal. Cover Christmas tree water if you add sugar, aspirin or preservatives. If you think your pet ingested a toxic plant, look for diarrhea, vomiting, irritation to skin and/or mouth, seizures and unconsciousness. Seek veterinary care if any of these symptoms are seen.

**Houseguests** can be stressful to your pets. Pets can become over excited, confused or frightened by holiday guests. Open doors are an invitation to run when pets feel frightened, so keep a watch on doors during the holiday house traffic. You may want to remind your houseguests that your normally friendly pet may want to be left alone during stressful times.

Always keep visible identification on your pets (even animals that live indoors all the time). If your pet becomes lost, identification is their ticket back home!

I wish you a safe and happy holiday season. Cheers!

# PETS & COLDER WEATHER



*The weather in Clackamas County is as diverse as its people and pets. In many parts of the county, winter is a season of bitter cold and numbing wetness. Help your pets remain happy and healthy during these colder and wetter months by following these simple guidelines.*

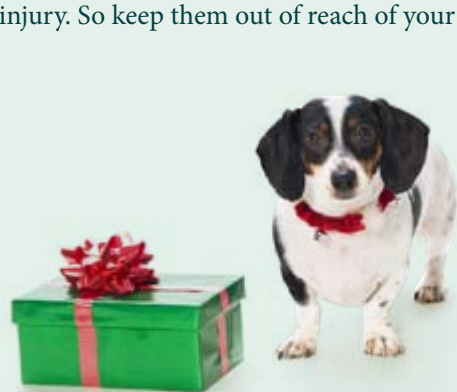
## ❖ Don't leave animals outdoors when the temperature drops.

Most dogs and all cats are safer indoors except when taken out for exercise. Short-coated dogs may even feel more comfortable wearing a sweater outdoors. Dogs and cats are social animals that crave human companionship. Your pets deserve to live indoors with you and your family.

❖ No matter what the temperature, wind-chill can threaten a pet's life. If you have an outdoor dog, make sure he or she is protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that:

- + Is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in their body heat.
- + Has a floor raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw.
- + Is faced away from the wind.
- + Has a doorway covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.

- ❖ Pets that spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm uses up energy. Use plastic rather than metal food and water bowls when the temperature is low (your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal) and routinely check to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen.
- ❖ Traditional antifreeze has a sweet taste that may attract animals (and children), but is poisonous if ingested. Remember to thoroughly clean up any spills and to store antifreeze (and all household chemicals) out of reach of your pets and children. Another option is to use antifreeze made with propylene glycol; it is not poisonous if swallowed in small amounts.
- ❖ Make sure that no cat or other animal has crawled under your car for shelter and warmth near the engine. If the animal is there when the engine is started, it could be seriously injured or killed. Before you start the car on a cold day, open the car hood or slap it loudly to startle any animal sleeping there.
- ❖ When you take your pet for a walk outdoors, consider rubbing petroleum jelly on his or her paws to protect their paws from de-icing materials. Then, wiping their paws when they come back in will prevent frostbite from snow and ice between the pads of their feet.



# Notes from the Manager's Desk:

The other day I was reminded of the old cliché “Time marches on”, when I realized we are nearing the end of our ten-year plan. Of course, that means it's time to develop the next ten-year plan and to reflect on what has been accomplished.

The changes have been large and small, and all designed to permit us to better serve the community and clients (both the four-legged and the two-legged clients).

The largest change has to be our new home. Many of you have visited the renovated warehouse building off of Highway 212 and seen for yourself the WOW difference. For those that haven't yet made the journey, we invite you to, as Bob Barker used to say “Come on down”!

“ We want each of you to help us determine what direction our trek takes...”

With the support of the community, Board of County Commissioners, the County Department of Transportation and Development and our clients, we are able to help more dogs and more community members in a healthy, welcoming and efficient manner.

Some of the changes are smaller, but just as important to the care of our guests. We were able to install a commercial TRIPLE-load washing machine. This means instead of 15-18 loads of laundry a day, we do 5-7 loads. Ah, more time to spend with dogs. We also have a commercial sanitizing dishwasher (two-minute cycles) instead of hand washing every dish and Kong toy every day. Of course, this means more time to play with the dogs (and cleaner dishes and Kongs)!

Just over a year ago, the Board of Commissioners supported our request to have a veterinarian based at the shelter. Now our guests receive quality veterinary care and our community receives excellent value for their adoption dollar. Dogs adopted from our shelter are typically already sterilized, microchipped, vaccinated and have routine veterinary issues corrected or under treatment.

There is always a distance to go, but we have begun on a wonderful trek of providing the community with a top-notch safe haven for lost, abused, neglected and looking-for-a-new-home dogs.



Shelter Manager Tamara Moxon (left), Dog Services Manager Diana Hallmark and Scooter, the county's Dog Services Ambassador.

In the coming year, we will be developing our plan for the next ten years! Exciting stuff. We want each of you to help us determine what direction our trek takes by participating in an upcoming on-line survey ([www.co.clackamas.us/dogs](http://www.co.clackamas.us/dogs)) and tell us what is important to you.

Lastly, I once again find myself grateful and awestruck by the generosity of our benefactors and community. When we have been in need, you have found a way to help. Because of your generosity, the dogs in the shelter have toys, chews, quality food, medications, beds, blankets and many, many other things to meet their needs.

I know the economy has left many in difficult situations. I would encourage those who need a bit of assistance with their dog to please ask. There are resources to help you. For those who have a bit extra, I would encourage you to look at our wish list and help where you can. Donations of all sizes and values help us help our pets.

Thank you for an awesome 2011 and we look forward to an amazing 2012!

*Diana*

Diana Hallmark  
Clackamas County Dog Services Manager

## YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

Tell us what you know and think about our programs and services, and what we can do better. Please go to [www.research.net/s/CCDS2011](http://www.research.net/s/CCDS2011) or to our web page [www.clackamas.us/dogs/](http://www.clackamas.us/dogs/) to take a brief survey.

# Special thanks to the following citizens and businesses for their support!

### Great Dane Donors:

Bill and Katey Taylor of the Harold and Margaret Taylor Foundation

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## Dog Socialization *continued from page 1*

There seems to be a widespread idea that socialization is exposing a puppy or dog to as many different people, places, dogs and things as possible. Even many dog books recommend this approach, suggesting introducing your puppy to people by the hundreds. Since the period of socialization closes between 12-14 weeks, and most puppies don't go to their new homes until they are 7-8 weeks, the proverbial clock is definitely ticking. However, the most critical component of socialization is often under-emphasized or completely overlooked, even by many dog trainers and vets. It applies whether you are working with a puppy, an adolescent, or an adult dog. It can mean the difference between your socialization efforts benefiting your dog or making things worse. This factor is not what or how much you expose the pup to, but how they respond to it.

Ultimately, the goal when we socialize a canine is to have them accept new things without stress, anxiety or fear; to greet new and different things with a sense of curiosity. Therefore, if we approach the socialization of a dog by numbers alone without regard to the dog's emotional state during the process, we may well be creating the very state of mind we are trying to avoid. Many well-meaning puppy owners who, following the advice of others in the name of socialization, have inadvertently created fear issues in their dog. The take-home message here is that, while it is true socialization is a critically important aspect to raising a healthy, well-balanced dog, it must be done correctly to have the intended positive influence.

Rather than just thinking in terms of numbers, it is more effective to keep these two factors at the forefront of your mind when socializing: **Variety and Response.** Although this requires that you do a little more planning than just taking your pup around with you, it offers some key benefits. You maximize socialization time, since you're being deliberate about the types of exposure your dog has. Secondly, any issues your dog exhibits during the process can be addressed methodically, rather than waiting for a full-blown problem to develop. For example, if your dog or pup shows some stress around men, you can put more value to meeting men by using only special yummy treats around men.

The process to properly socialize an adolescent or adult dog is the same as for a puppy. Some important points to remember:

- **Progress** at the dog's speed and comfort level.
- **Never physically force** the dog to something or someone they are hesitant or fearful of.
- **Use food treats.** Eating has a physiologically calming effect, and

also classically conditions the dog to associate good things with the item. It also gives you a very good barometer of when your dog is feeling stressed.

- **Look at your dog and listen** to what they are telling you about their emotional state. One of the first things a stressed dog will do is stop eating. If your dog is happily eating treats from a child then suddenly seems to not be able to see or smell them, let alone want to eat them, it is time to take some pressure off the dog. It may be the child leaned in to pet the dog, or any number of things; you may not even know what happened to cause this sudden change in attitude. However, if you listen to your dog and give them some space and time to realize everything's OK, you will build your dog's trust in you and decrease the likelihood of their escalating to a bite. If your dog knows you "hear" them and will be their advocate, they will be much less likely to feel that they must protect themselves.
- **Be mindful of your reactions to your dog.** If your dog is apprehensive about something, cooing "it's OK, it's OK" while nervously petting is counterproductive. There is nothing wrong with giving your pup support and encouragement, but remain calm and matter of fact, then give your dog the needed time and/or space.
- **Don't overdo it.** As important as it is to expose your dog to varied experiences, at the end of the day the ultimate timetable to consider is the individual dog. Experiences must be positive. For example, it is better that your dog has a handful of great encounters with men than dozens of marginal ones. Give your dog quiet time to assimilate and internalize new experiences. Dogs can get over stimulated just like children, and once that happens, it is no longer a positive experience.

### Here are some additional online resources:

<http://www.dogstardaily.com/training/digital-dog-training-textbook> – Dr. Ian Dunbar's Dog Star Daily is a wealth of free behavior & training information.  
<http://www.dogstardaily.com/radio> – Dr. Dunbar's podcasts are fantastic!  
<http://info.drSophiaYin.com/puppy-socialization-checklist-0/> – Dr. Sophia Yin's puppy socialization checklist includes a column to record your dog's reactions during outings.  
<http://www.brisbeethewhite.com/id29.htm> – a great one-page list of ideas to work off of.  
To learn more about dog body language, check our expanding page on dog safety at [www.clackamasdogs.org](http://www.clackamasdogs.org).

# CLASSES, EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Clackamas County Dog Services is rockin' the town!  
There is so much going on, we aren't sure where to begin.

## JANUARY

- 1 Su New Years Day  
All county facilities closed
- 2 M Dog Services is open and ready to help.
- 5 Th Scentwork Class – details TBA
- 7 S 11:30-12:30 Puppy Kindergarten
- 11 W Canine Life & Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) WEEK 1  
6:30-7:15 pm B.A level I  
7:30-8:15 pm PhD/CGC Prep  
7-8 pm Your New Dog Workshop
- 12 Th Scentwork Class – details TBA
- 14 S 11:30 am-12:30 pm Puppy Kindergarten
- 16 M MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY  
ALL COUNTY FACILITIES CLOSED
- 18 W Canine Life & Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) WEEK 2  
6:30-7:15 pm B.A level I  
7:30-8:15 pm PhD/CGC Prep
- 19 Th Scentwork Class – details TBA
- 21 S 10-11 am Your New Dog Workshop  
11 am -1 pm Fix Your Jump  
1-2:30 pm Pet First Aid/CPR
- 25 W Canine Life & Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) WEEK 3  
6:30-7:15 pm B.A level I  
7:30-8:15 pm PhD/CGC Prep
- 26 Th Scentwork Class – details TBA

## FEBRUARY

- 1 W Canine Life & Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) WEEK 4  
6:30-7:15 pm B.A level I  
7:30-8:15 pm PhD/CGC Prep
- 2 T Scentwork Class – details TBA
- 4 S 10-11 am Basic Manners Class:Week 1  
11:30 am-12:30 pm Puppy Kindergarten
- 6 M 7-8 pm I'm Coming:Week 1  
Developing a solid recall 2-class workshop
- 8 W Canine Life & Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) WEEK 5  
6:30-7:15 pm B.A level I  
7:30-8:15 pm PhD/CGC Prep
- 9 T Scentwork Class – details TBA
- 10 F 7-8 pm Your New Dog workshop
- 11 S 10-11 am Basic Manners Class week 2  
11:30 am -12:30 pm Puppy Kindergarten
- 13 M 7-8 pm I'm Coming:Week 2  
Developing a solid recall 2-class workshop
- 15 W Canine Life & Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) WEEK 6  
6:30-7:15 pm B.A level I  
7:30-8:15 pm PhD/CGC Prep
- 16 Th Scentwork Class – details TBA
- 17 F 7-8 pm –Who's walking Whom:  
2 class workshop  
Week 1: Helping your dog walk on a loose leash
- 18 S 10-11 am Basic Manners Class week 3  
11:30 am-12:30 pm Puppy Kindergarten
- 20 M PRESIDENTS DAY: ALL COUNTY FACILITIES ARE CLOSED
- 23 T Scentwork Class – details TBA
- 24 F 7-8 pm –Who's walking Whom:  
2 class workshop  
Week 2: Helping your dog walk on a loose leash
- 25 S 10-11 am Basic Manners Class week 4  
10-11 am Your New Dog Workshop  
11:30 am-12:30 pm Puppy Kindergarten

## MARCH

- BIG BLACK DOG MONTH**  
Did you know there is actually a syndrome called the Big Black Dog Syndrome? Large black dogs are often overlooked in shelters and rescues, simply because of their color. Please take a second look at the Big Black Dog, there are some amazing companions there.
- 3 S 10-11 am Basic Manners Class week 5  
11:30 am-12:30 pm Puppy Kindergarten
  - 7 W Canine Life & Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) WEEK 1  
6:30-7:15 pm B.A level I  
7:30-8:15 pm MA level 2
  - 8 Th Scentwork Class – details TBA
  - 10 S 10-11 am Basic Manners Class week 6  
11:30 am-12:30 pm Puppy Kindergarten  
Petco Gresham – Mega Adoption Event
  - 11 Su Petco Gresham – Mega Adoption Event  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGSTIME BEGINS
  - 14 W Canine Life & Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) WEEK 2  
6:30-7:15 pm B.A level I  
7:30-8:15 pm MA level 2
  - 15 Th Scentwork Class – details TBA
  - 17 S 10-11 am Basic Manners Class week 7  
11:30 am-12:30 pm Puppy Kindergarten
  - 21 W Canine Life & Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) WEEK 3  
6:30-7:15 pm B.A level I  
7:30-8:15 pm MA level 2
  - 22 Th Scentwork Class – details TBA
  - 24 S 10-11 am Basic Manners Class week 8 – Graduation  
11:30 am-12:30 pm Puppy Kindergarten
  - 28 W Canine Life & Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) WEEK 4  
6:30-7:15 pm B.A level I  
7:30-8:15 pm MA level 2
  - 29 Th Scentwork Class – details TBA

# HOW YOU CAN HELP!

## CLACKAMAS COUNTY DOG SERVICES WISH LIST

One way you can support Clackamas County Dog Services' efforts to help animals in our community is by donating funds or supplies. As a supporter of Clackamas County Dog Services, you'll join a large community of pet lovers dedicated to helping Clackamas County provide the highest quality care for dogs waiting either to be reunited with their family or to find their new family, and prevent animal abuse and neglect through education.

### ADOPT A RUN:

Every dog in our shelter has their own home, or "run" with their own bed, food and toys. One of the many ways you can support the work of the shelter is to Adopt-a-Run.

1 year –	\$1,500
5 years –	\$5,000
10 year –	\$8,500
Lifetime –	\$12,000

**Add Clackamas County Dog Services as a beneficiary of your estate.** We promise to make every penny count in the lives of the dogs that depend on us, whether they are in the community or in our shelter.

Call 503-655-8628 or email Diana Hallmark at dianahal@co.clackamas.or.us. We are raising funds to purchase large equipment: exam lighting, a veterinary cauterizer machine and a dental sonic scaler.

### HELP US MEET OUR MOST URGENT NEED: CANNED FOOD (WE ARE ALMOST OUT).

#### FOOD AND TREATS

High quality dog food - canned and dry: Canidae, Castor & Pollux, Eukanuba, Iams, Innova, Kirkland, Natural Balance, Nutro, Pinnacle, Wellness and Science Diet  
Dog treats  
Zip-top plastic storage bags – gallon, quart & snack size

#### DOG TOYS FOR ENRICHMENT

Hard rubber chew toys  
Nylabones  
Tennis balls  
Jolly Ball – dog toy  
eGGE – dog toy  
Kongs – medium and large; red or black

#### EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES

EZ-up canopies (for outdoor adoption events and emergency responses); sides would be wonderful.  
Vari-kennels- medium, large and X-large  
Dawn dish soap  
Broom & dust pan  
Microfiber rag mop heads  
Zip ties – all lengths  
Baled cedar shavings (for small play yards)  
Folding tables – 4' and 6'

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Extension cords – at least 50'  
Bleach – 10 gallons  
Instant ice maker  
Instant hot packs  
Instant cold packs

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLIES cont.

Portable generator  
Carabineers – all sizes  
Nylon rope – medium weight  
Bungee cords – all lengths  
Duct tape  
Scrub brushes – all sizes

#### MEDICAL CLINIC SUPPLIES

Brown roll gauze – 2" or 4" width  
Lubricating jelly  
White bandage tape – 1" or 2" width  
Elastikon tape  
Disinfecting wipes  
Paper towels  
Sterile non-stick bandage material  
Cast padding  
Nolvason scrub – gallon  
Nolvason solution – gallon  
Betadine  
Distilled water  
Isopropyl alcohol  
Gauze pads – 3X3 or 4X4  
Latex gloves – small or large  
Clear plastic storage tote w/lid  
Rubbermaid-type large drawer unit  
Heating pads  
Re-useable hot/cold packs  
Vet Wrap – all widths

For information about November and December classes, go online to:  
[www.clackamasdogs.org](http://www.clackamasdogs.org)



Clackamas County Dog Services  
13141 SE Hwy 212, Clackamas, OR 97015

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## DOG NOTES NEWS | CLACKAMAS COUNTY DOG SERVICES | FALL 2011

### DOG SERVICES BEGINS NEW STERILIZATION PROGRAM FOR DOGS OF LOW-INCOME COUNTY RESIDENTS

Beginning in December 2011, Dog Services will offer low-cost spay/neuter services for dogs owned by county residents who are receiving public assistance.

The service will be offered one day a month at the Clackamas County Dog Shelter at 13141 SE Highway 212 in Clackamas at a cost of \$15 for spaying (female dogs) or \$10 for neutering (male dogs). Interested people are asked to call in advance (503-655-8628) to make an appointment.

For the \$15 or \$10 per dog, Dog Services will provide the following services:

- Spay (female) or neuter (male) dog by a licensed veterinarian;
- Implantation of an identification microchip (encouraged to help dog owners find lost dogs);
- A rabies vaccine
- A one-year Clackamas County dog license

Pet overpopulation is a growing challenge that faces our pets and our communities. This new program is designed to support efforts of all county residents to work toward a solution. Not only does sterilization prevent unwanted offspring, but it also reduces a dog's tendency to roam, eliminates heat periods and often lessens aggressive tendencies. It does not change a dog's training or affect it's ability to play, hunt or work.

If you aren't a low-income county resident who needs a dog neutered but you support efforts to reduce pet overpopulation, Dog Services will gratefully accept donated funds to support the program. For more information, contact Clackamas County Dog Services at 503-655-8628 or go to [www.clackamas.us/dogs/](http://www.clackamas.us/dogs/).

