



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Greetings from the Governor

November 14, 2005

I am honored to extend warm greetings to everyone participating in today's no-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, sponsored by the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project (FCSNP). I regret that I cannot be here myself to help celebrate the 20,000th surgery since the Clinic began in 1997, with 6,000 surgeries performed this year alone! What an incredible accomplishment this represents!

Homeless animals are a serious and well-recognized problem. Overcrowding in our shelters leaves no option but to euthanize when homes for these animals cannot be located. Feral cats present a particular challenge because they are generally too wild to be socialized. Your free monthly spay/neuter clinic offers a humane way to control the feral cat population and is a clearly compassionate effort to reduce the overall number of animals being euthanized.

I understand that last year the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project provided more surgeries than any other organization in the Washington Federation for Animal Care and Control, of which you are a part. This is truly impressive! Clearly, you are absolutely committed to your mission, plan extensively to make this happen each month, and rely on an incredibly dedicated network of volunteers. The fact that the Project has received national recognition shows the far-reaching impact of the work you're doing. Being asked to mentor others, nationwide, is a further testament to the difference that you're making around this issue.

I was pleased to sign legislation in 2005 to help fund statewide sterilization of pets. The option to order "We Love Our Pets" license plates, available in January 2006, will help to get the word out about your program and, hopefully, also help to ensure funding for the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project in the future.

I send my very best wishes for today's memorable event and wish you every continuing success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine O. Gregoire".

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

