

ART extends free spay/neuter program

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NORFOLK, Va. - Animal Rescue of Tidewater (ART) has extended its free spay and neuter services program which originally started in July. The program will now run through September.

ART was founded in 1999 and advocates for the welfare of animals. The group firmly believes that spaying and neutering your pets is the underlying solution to animal population control.

Statistics show about 35 percent of dogs and 76 percent of cats entering Norfolk's animal control were euthanized last year, according to an ART news release.

ART sponsors PETA's mobile SNIP (Spay Neuter Immediately Please) van one day a week in Norfolk's Ocean View area. To date, 102 dogs and 233 cats have been altered at no cost to the city, the release said.

Sarah Crawford, ART member/coordinator said, "The high volume of response proves that people want to do the right thing and get their animals fixed. With today's economy being uncertain and family budgets being tighter, it is sometimes hard for people to find the money for this procedure."

ART says the program costs \$400 per week and hopes the success of the program will encourage donations from the public and help grow their Ocean View efforts, as well as expand it to other Norfolk neighborhoods.