

Animal Friendly plate promotes pet population control

Sadly, over half a million animals are euthanized in Texas each year. Spaying and neutering is the most cost-effective and humane way to reduce the number of homeless animals in Texas communities. The number of animals in Texas shelters swells with adoptable puppies and kittens during May and June every year. Texas motorists and animal lovers can support statewide spay and neuter programs by obtaining Animal Friendly specialty license plates. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the (COUNTY NAME) County Tax Assessor-Collector's office are featuring the Animal Friendly special license plate as May's plate of the month.

"Veterinarians confirm neutered dogs and cats make better pets, enjoy a healthier life, and are less likely to stray," said (NAME), tax assessor-collector for (COUNTY NAME) County. "Spaying and neutering programs are the more effective and humane approach to pet population control in our community."

To date, the Texas Department of State Health Services has awarded \$750,000 in grants to organizations across Texas for low-cost spaying and neutering. One of the three most popular specialty plates in Texas, the Animal Friendly specialty plate features a drawing of a white cat and dog, against a dark blue background, under a red sun, with the slogan "Animal Friendly" across the bottom. It is available to motorists for a \$30 annual fee, plus \$40 if personalized, in addition to regular vehicle registration fees. Of the \$30 annual fee, \$22 is deposited into a special fund for pet spaying and neutering programs.

Motorists can get an application at their county tax office, on TX DOT's Web site at www.dot.state.tx.us, or by calling the TxDOT Help Desk at (512) 465-7611. TxDOT started its specialty license plate program in 1965. Today, there are more than 100 different plate designs, many of them benefiting a particular group, organization, college or university.

-30-

For more information, call (COUNTY CONTACT PERSON'S NAME), (CONTACT PERSON'S TITLE), at (CONTACT PERSON'S PHONE NUMBER).

For a view of the plate or and ordering information, go to www.dot.state.tx.us/vtr/spplates/allplates.htm.