

# SHENANGO VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER

Hermitage-Sharon-Sharpville-Farrell-West Middlesex-Shenango Twp

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November 18, 2025

**Subject: The Essential Impact of Tails of Hope's Initiatives on the Shenango Valley Animal Shelter (SVAS) and our community.**

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to express the critical role that the lifesaving program services of the non-profit Tails of Hope in Hermitage, Pennsylvania play in addressing the local companion animal overpopulation, alleviating the long-term physical and financial burden of the shelter, and supporting the sustainability and success of the Shenango Valley Animal Shelter. With our new, improved, and larger shelter located directly behind Tails of Hope, it is important our community understands that the impact of the basic and essential services of Tails of Hope is profound, creating a positive ripple effect that reaches from individual pet health to the efficient allocation of community resources.

The primary and most significant impact of a non-profit like Tails of Hope is the **reduction in the sheer number of homeless or unwanted animals** entering our doors. Animal Shelters, including ours, are often at or near capacity, a direct consequence of unplanned and unwanted litters. An unspayed female dog and her offspring can produce over 500 dogs in just three years, while an unspayed female cat can produce thousands of descendants in a similar timeframe. By "cutting the problem off at the source," Tails of Hope's spay/neuter services prevent this exponential growth, directly easing the strain on our space and resources.

This reduction in intake numbers **allows us to provide better, more focused care for each animal that does come into the shelter system.** With fewer animals competing for space, food, medical attention, and human interaction, we can improve their chances of adoption and ensure better overall welfare. And with more room in our shelter thanks to the benefits of more spayed/neutered animals in our community, we can save even more pets.

Ultimately, this leads to a significant decrease in euthanasia rates. Historically, millions of healthy, adoptable animals were euthanized in our country each year simply because there were not enough homes to go around. **Effective spay/neuter programs directly support our ability to maintain a "no-kill" status, where euthanasia is reserved only for animals who are irretrievably suffering or dangerous.**

Furthermore, spaying and neutering offers substantial benefits to pet parents and the community:

- **Improved Pet Health:** Pets who are spayed/neutered have a reduced risk of certain cancers (mammary, prostate, testicular), and life-threatening infections like pyometra (uterine infection); pets who are vaccinated have a reduced risk of acquiring and spreading diseases, leading to longer, healthier lives.

- **Improved Human and Community Health:** When pets in our community are spayed/neutered and vaccinated, it lowers the number of homeless animals and decreases public health risks associated with them, such as animal bites and zoonotic diseases that can be passed to people.

- **Better Pet Behavior:** Animals who are spayed/neutered are less likely to roam, be aggressive, fight, or mark their territory with urine, which helps prevent injuries, lost pets, public health risks, and reduces surrender or abandonment onto our streets or into our shelter.

- **Keeping Pets with their Families:** In addition to better behavior, spay/neuter and vaccinations can help people and families with pets meet their housing requirements so the animals can stay with a person or family that already loves and cares for them, and out of the shelter.

- **Financial & Resource Savings:** The one-time cost of Spay/Neuter surgery is exponentially less than the cost of caring for a litter, dealing with a disease, medical condition, or medical emergency, and the community expenses involved in animal control, shelter housing, and adoption programs.

To ensure these benefits are realized, it is vital to support the accessible and affordable spay/neuter programs in our community at Tails of Hope, specifically targeting the populations that contribute most to shelter intake. This is a proven strategy for improving not only animal welfare, but also human health and overall community health.

By working together and embracing responsible pet guardianship, we can transform the future of animal welfare and overall community health in our area at the lowest possible cost.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Hubert

President

Shenango Valley Animal Shelter

Shenango Valley



Animal Shelter