

94 Donation Road  
Greenville, PA 16125  
724-588-6161



11/19/2025

**Subject: The Transformative Impact of Tails of Hope's Initiatives on Strayhaven and our Community**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to underscore the critical role that the Spay/Neuter (S/N), vaccinations, and other lifesaving program services of the non-profit Tails of Hope in Hermitage, PA, plays in managing the local companion animal population and alleviating the immense pressure on our community's animal shelter. The impact of these preventative measures is profound, creating a more humane and sustainable environment for pets and people alike.

**Reducing Overpopulation and Intake Numbers to our Shelter**

The core benefit of S/N is the prevention of unwanted litters. A single unspayed female dog and her offspring can produce thousands of dogs over several years. By cutting this problem off at its source, we drastically lower the number of animals that would otherwise end up abandoned on the streets or surrendered to our shelter through no fault of their own, which ultimately reduces our financial burden and the chances of Strayhaven needing a larger shelter in the future.

**Lowering Euthanasia Rates**

Fewer animals entering the shelter means less overcrowding. In the U.S., millions of healthy, adoptable animals are euthanized each year simply because there are not enough homes or shelter space for all of them. High-volume, low-cost or no-cost S/N programs are a proven method to reduce these tragic outcomes, help other shelters become no-kill and help Strayhaven remain no-kill status.

**Improving Animal Welfare and Resource Allocation**

When our shelter is not overwhelmed by a constant influx of new animals, we can allocate more resources—staff time, medical care, and space—to each individual animal. This improves their physical health, addresses behavioral needs, and significantly increases their chances of finding a permanent, loving home.

**Reducing Financial Impact on Families**

A S/N clinic like Tails of Hope encourages responsible pet guardianship which reduces the financial impact on families and helps keep pets healthier, with their families, and out of shelters in the first place. S/N reduces or eliminates the behaviors which most commonly lead to run away, abandonment, or surrender. S/N and vaccines also reduce the likelihood of pets developing cancers or other expensive and fatal diseases or illnesses.

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### **Improving Community Health**

Another benefit responsible pet guardianship brings is improving our overall community health. Animals who are S/N are less likely to roam, not only reducing the risk of them needing to enter our shelter but also reducing the risks of them being hit by cars, getting into fights, or spreading diseases. The S/N and vaccination programs at Tails of Hope also mitigate public health risks associated with pet and stray populations – including zoonotic diseases that can be passed to humans, such as Rabies, and saves taxpayer dollars that would otherwise be spent on animal control services.

### **In Conclusion**

The accessible and affordable S/N programs offered by Tails of Hope are not just a shelter issue; they are a vital community investment. They are essential to breaking the cycle of pet abandonment & homelessness and creating a kinder world for all animals while keeping families together and healthier.

Sincerely,

Andie Mentzer  
Strayhaven Animal Shelter Board President  
[strayhavenboard@yahoo.com](mailto:strayhavenboard@yahoo.com)  
724-456-6921