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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Cat Owners Can “Beat the Heat” Before Spring & Help Save More Lives With the Humane Society of Charlotte’s \$20 Spay Special in February

**\*\*\* APPOINTMENTS ARE LIMITED \*\*\***

**Sponsored by PetSmart Charities®,  
“Beat the Heat” provides \$20 spay surgeries for female cats.**

**CHARLOTTE, NC (February 6, 2013)** – Warmer weather may still be months away, but the Humane Society of Charlotte wants you to “**Beat the Heat**” by spaying your cat in advance of her heat cycle and preventing unwanted litters from being born this spring. Animal shelters commonly refer to spring time as “kitten season” because that is when they receive the largest influx numbers of unwanted litters that are difficult to adopt.

That’s why HSC is offering a special “**Beat the Heat**” campaign sponsored by [PetSmart Charities](#), the largest funder of animal welfare efforts in North America. Through the “Beat the Heat” campaign, the Humane Society of Charlotte will provide \$20 spay and neuter surgeries for female cats during the month of February.

Spaying and neutering is one of the most effective ways to reduce the homeless pet population and is safe for kittens as young as eight to 10 weeks old, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. Spaying a female cat before the first heat cycle can be beneficial, improving the health of the pet by reducing the risk of certain reproductive cancers and infections.

“Female cats can have as many as three litters a year, and kittens can breed as young as four months old,” says Shelly Moore, President / CEO of the organization. “Most people don’t want to see their cat get pregnant over and over again, so hopefully our “**Beat the Heat**” campaign will serve as a gentle reminder to cat owners to sterilize their cats before they go into heat this year.”

This special \$20 rate is even less than the organization’s normal low-cost price and is available to all residents of Mecklenburg County. *Cat parents who wish to take advantage of this offer must mention the “**Beat the Heat**” campaign when they schedule their appointment.* This campaign is based on availability.

Thanks to the PetSmart Charities grant, the **Humane Society of Charlotte will provide 500 female cat “Beat the Heat” sterilizations for \$20 in February.** Please visit <http://humanesocietyofcharlotte.org/clinic-services/beat-the-heat> or call 704.333.4130 to schedule an appointment.

PetSmart Charities’ “**Beat the Heat**” campaign provides more than \$549,700 to spay/neuter clinics to fund affordable, high-quality spay and neuter surgeries for 15,508 female cats across the nation during the month of February.

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### About the Humane Society of Charlotte

The mission of the Humane Society of Charlotte is to be a community resource committed to improving the lives of companion animals through adoption, spay/neuter and education. Our vision is to place all animals in safe and loving homes. The Humane Society of Charlotte provides low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for cats and dogs to reduce pet overpopulation throughout the Carolinas. The Humane Society of Charlotte is a non-profit organization that relies solely on private donations to achieve its mission.

**About PetSmart Charities:**

PetSmart Charities, Inc. is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that saves the lives of homeless pets. More than 400,000 dogs and cats find homes each year through our adoption program in all PetSmart® stores and our sponsored adoption events. PetSmart Charities grants more money to directly help pets in need than any other animal welfare group in North America, with a focus on funding spay/neuter services that help communities solve pet overpopulation. PetSmart Charities is a 501(c)(3) organization, separate from PetSmart, Inc.