



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CT Department of Agriculture Announces Expansion of Animal Population Control Program

Hartford, CT – The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is scheduled to launch later this month, two new expansion phases of the Animal Population Control Program (APCP), which is expected to further help reduce the pet overpopulation problem in our state. For the first time since the APCP was implemented in 1995, benefits will be provided to help low-income citizens vaccinate and sterilize their companion pets. The second phase expands the already successful Feral Cat Grant Program first initiated in 2007, by adding more grant revenue into the program.

The Low- Income and Feral Cat Grant Programs are a result of the 2007 passage of Public Act No. 07-105, An Act Concerning the Expansion of the Animal Population Control Program. “We are excited to announce that after a lot of hard work by many, we are ready to provide an increase in vouchers for feral cats and implement new spay/neuter benefits for the companion pets of low-income Connecticut citizens,” said Agriculture Commissioner F. Philip Prelli.

The Feral Cat Grant Program first introduced in 2007, awarded \$40,000 in vaccination/sterilization vouchers to eleven (11) Connecticut non-profit organizations providing

benefits for 500 feral cats. In 2008, another \$40,000 subsidized vaccination/sterilization benefits for 500 cats. For 2009, the new expanded version of the bill will dedicate up to 10% of APCP income to vaccinate and sterilize feral cats (65% of the program's income comes from a dog license surcharge). The total amount to be awarded is expected to be \$40,000 to \$60,000. By state definition, a feral cat is one that is wild by nature and has not been domesticated.

The second part of the new legislation plans to provide pet sterilization benefits for Connecticut residents who qualify for one of six low-income programs as defined by the Department of Social Services (DSS). The APCP will dedicate 10% of its income, also expected to be \$40,000 to \$60,000, to the low-income program.

The introduction of these new programs was due largely due to the success of the agency's Animal Population Control Program (APCP), which has provided vaccination/sterilization benefits to more than 50,000 pound pets since the program's inception in 1995 and has helped to reduce euthanasia by 50% and the number of impounded pets by one-third.

For more information about the new Low- Income and Feral Cat Grant Programs, please contact the Animal Population Control Program at 860-713-2507 or visit the agency's website, www.ct.gov/doag.

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