


[SPAY DAY 2011.]

 **hsVma** HUMANE SOCIETY VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION


**Behind the Scenes at a Spay Day™ Clinic**  
Veteran Spay Day Veterinary Professionals  
Answer Your Questions




**Your panelists and moderator!**




Michelle Gonzalez, DVM



Barb Jones, DVM



Kate McDermott, RVT



Susan Krebsbach, DVM

**Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association**

- National veterinary medical association focused on animal welfare
- Affiliate organization of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
- Animal advocacy, public education and field service opportunities
- Learn more at [hsvma.org](http://hsvma.org)



**Agenda**

- Brief overview of Spay Day
- Panelists respond to Top 10 questions about Spay Day
- Resources for veterinary professionals
- Q&A with attendees



[humanesociety.org/spayday](http://humanesociety.org/spayday)

**What is Spay Day™?**



Vicki Stevens,  
HSUS U.S. Spay Day Coordinator

**Spay Day™ makes a big impact**

- Touches the lives of more than 100,000 animals each year.
- Raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for spay/neuter.
- Get thousands of media mentions.
- Reaches at least tens of thousands of people around the world with the spay/neuter message.
- Engages hundreds of organizations in more than 35 countries.





### Question #1 – Who do you serve?

- Who do you choose as your target clients for Spay Day services?
- What type of criteria do you use to identify qualified families?



### Answer #1 – Who do you serve?

**Gonzalez:** Low-income families or low-income areas

- Proof of government assistance, tax return showing family income not above 150% of federal poverty guidelines, college students

**Jones:** Use data to identify need for services

- Have shelters identify zip codes with highest surrender rates or target zip codes with lowest average incomes

**McDermott:** No income criteria

- Sold vouchers on a first-come, first-serve basis

### Question #2 – Which animals qualify?

- What types of animals do you target for Spay Day?
- Do you limit your services to certain ages, species, or breeds of animals?



### Answer #2 – Which animals qualify?

**McDermott:** Set target number of cats and dogs

- Divided 100 cat slots by sex (50 m and 50 f) and 60 dog slots by sex and size

**Gonzalez:** Focus on a particular type of patient to educate problems affecting that animal

- Large breed dogs, feral cats, kittens and puppies

**Jones:** Identify which animals (species/breeds/sizes) are most likely to breed and contribute to unwanted/homeless animals in the community

- Feral cats, Pit bulls, Chihuahua

### Question #3 – Owned vs. rescue animals?

- Do you restrict the animals you service to owned animals or do you also incorporate rescue/shelter animals?



### Answer #3 – Owned vs. rescue animals?

Jones: Consider shelter animals but w/precautions

➤ Shelter animals need a constant rate of spay/neuter so getting many sterilized in one day isn't likely to be helpful.

Gonzalez: Shelter/rescue on stand-by

➤ Event geared toward owned animals since trying to reach those less likely to be sterilized; rescue animals on stand-by in case of no-shows

McDermott: Service only "owned" animals

➤ Gave some vouchers to rescue groups to issue to owners who need help

### Question #4 – New clinic setting?

- Were there special challenges in working with new veterinary personnel on the day of the clinic?
- Did veterinary staff find it difficult to work with new equipment or protocols?



### Answer #4 – New clinic setting?

Jones: Plan ahead to minimize challenges

➤ If vets or techs are participating as "guests" at clinic, advance planning and communication is key.

Gonzalez: Another "day at the office"

➤ Excitement among personnel and client because promoted as an "event" with the media

McDermott: Key is planning and communication

➤ Event ran smoothly due to advanced planning

### Question #5 – Handling animals who are ill?

- How do you deal with animals who appear ill or compromised in a Spay Day clinic setting?



### Answer #5 – Animals who are ill?

Gonzales: Examine and assess severity of illness

➤ Mild signs of disease: Inform owners of higher risk during procedure and provide meds (i.e. antibiotics and dewormer)

➤ Serious signs: Recommend pet be treated for illness and returned at a later date for sterilization

Jones: Pre-anesthesia examination

➤ Assess body systems that are most likely to affect how animal does under anesthesia and in surgery

McDermott: Complete physical examination

➤ DVM decides if animal too ill and must return for sterilization

### Question #6 – Pregnant animals?

- Do you accept pregnant animals at Spay Day clinics?



### Question #6 – Pregnant animals?

Jones: Accept or fast-track into pre-Spay Day

- If possible, ask participating vets if animals identified as pregnant can get in ahead of time. Also ask participating vets to do pregnant spays day of (since you can't always tell ahead of time, especially with cats)

Gonzalez: Spay (as long as they are healthy)

McDermott: Owners authorize pregnant spay

- Owners sign an authorization form to spay pet if pregnant.
- If the owner refuses, reschedule for after litter is weaned.

### Question #7 – “Crash” situations?

- How do you prepare for crash (emergency) situations?



### Question #7 – “Crash” situations?

Gonzalez: Emergency drugs on hand/drug dosage on the wall/IV catheter and fluids

Jones: Standard crash kit with written protocol and staff trained to use it

- Make sure waiver has been signed by pet owners

McDermott: Emergency drug box available at all times

### Question #8 – Follow-up care?

- Who provides follow-up care for Spay Day patients?



### Question #8 – Follow-up care?

McDermott: Post-op complications seen at clinic

- Discharge instructions reviewed verbally with each pet owner

Jones: Need clear protocol to avoid misunderstandings

- Some clinics may want to handle follow-up care; others may not

Gonzalez: Stress importance of after care to prevent complications

- Provide after-care at clinic during regular hours. If they go to another vet, they assume financial responsibility.

### Question #9 – Working with other groups?

- Do you find it beneficial to join forces with other groups/rescue organizations to host a Spay Day event?



### Question #9 – Working with other groups?

Gonzalez: Yes!

- Increases exposure and number of volunteers available for event

Jones: Benefits but keep protocols consistent

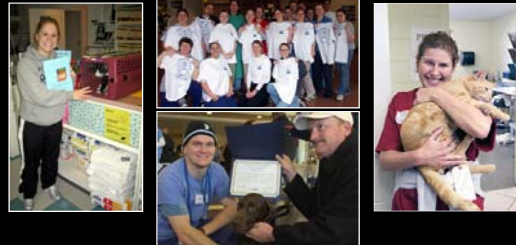
- Clients may get organizations confused; important to keep policies and protocols consistent

McDermott: Tap into other resources

- Vet tech assistant program sent students to help monitor animals in recovery; other groups helped raise funds and referred clients

### Question #10 – Spay Day memories?

- What is your best Spay Day memory?



### Question #10 – Spay Day memories?

McDermott: Relief and happiness of pet owners

- Clients who have multiple animals who previously couldn't afford were so thankful for services

Gonzalez: Spaying 95 lb female Pit bull

- Client had been turned away from other clinics due to size and breed of dog

Jones: Seeing planning come to fruition

- Planning meetings with volunteers have been fun and memorable

### HSVMA Perks for Veterinary Involvement in 2011

- Free HSVMA membership for veterinary professionals who participate in Spay Day
- Special certificates of appreciation
- A chance to win a trip for two to HSUS' Animal Care Expo 2011!
  - Taking place at the Walt Disney World® Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida



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### HSVMA Perks for Veterinary Involvement in 2011

To qualify for HSVMA perks, photo contest funding and other benefits, you must fulfill certain eligibility requirements—the first is to register your Spay Day event.

- November 1, 2010—Spay Day 2011 Event Registration opens
- Login to your record—or, if you're brand new to Spay Day, create a new one—at [humanesociety.org/spaydayregister](http://humanesociety.org/spaydayregister)
- Report your event results by March 14, 2011.

### Spay Day Resources - Medical

- Association of Shelter Veterinarians – [sheltervet.org](http://sheltervet.org)
  - Spay/neuter guidelines, information on how to start spay/neuter program
- Humane Alliance – [humanealliance.org](http://humanealliance.org)
  - Spay/neuter protocols; instructional video series ; training opportunities
- HSVMA Field Services – [ruralareavet.org](http://ruralareavet.org)
  - Training materials, videos for spay/neuter
- Petsmart Charities Webinars – [petsmartcharities.org](http://petsmartcharities.org)
  - Archived webinars on spay/neuter guidelines, organizing clinics

### Other Spay Day Resources

- Official SPAYDAY™ Websites – [humansociety.org/spayday](http://humansociety.org/spayday) and [hsi.org/spayday](http://hsi.org/spayday)
- Register Your SPAYDAY™ Event (beginning Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>) – [humansociety.org/spaydayregister](http://humansociety.org/spaydayregister)
- Photo Contest Rules (updated Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>) – [humansociety.org/spaydayeligible](http://humansociety.org/spaydayeligible)
- Flyers, Ads, Billboard Art (beginning Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>) – [humansociety.org/spaydayaction](http://humansociety.org/spaydayaction)
- *Event Planning Guide* – [humansociety.org/spaydayparticipate](http://humansociety.org/spaydayparticipate)

### Comments or Questions?



[hsvma.org](http://hsvma.org)

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