

# **Harrison County Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic (Attached to Harrison County Animal Control)**

*Pilot: 1 day/week starting January 2026*

## **Executive Summary**

Purpose: Establish an on-site low-cost spay/neuter clinic at the Harrison County Animal Control Facility to replace the current voucher program, increase access to affordable sterilization for Harrison County residents, and reduce facility intake and euthanasia. Key outcomes: Reduced intake at Harrison County Animal Control; increased sterilization rate among owned and community animals; improved public health and reduced facility costs over time. Scope: High-quality surgical clinic focused on cats and dogs, available only to Harrison County residents and Harrison County rescue groups via proof of residency/proof of business address.

## **Problem Statement**

Current situation: The voucher program has limited reach because sterilization costs have risen so much that vouchers now cover only a small fraction of the fee. As a result, many animals remain unsterilized, and Animal Control intake remains high. In 2024, the facility total intake was 925 animals. We anticipate it to remain the same for 2025. Local impacts: High intake strains facility resources, increases euthanasia risk, and raises animal control costs. Sterilization gaps contribute to community cat populations and repeat owner surrenders.

## **Goals and Measurable Objectives**

Primary goal: Provide affordable, accessible spay/neuter services to Harrison County residents to reduce Animal Control intake by an agreed target in 2–3 years. Objectives:

- Perform approximately 960 sterilizations in Year 1 during the one-day-per-week schedule (48 clinic days × 20 surgeries/day).
- Increase percentage of sterilized pets entering the community and reduce owner-surrenders for preventable reasons.
- Reduce intake and euthanasia rates over 12–24 months based on collected data.

## **Target Population & Eligibility**

Harrison County residents (proof required: ID + mail/utility bill or facility registration), rescue groups based in Harrison County, community cat programs.

## **Services Offered**

Core: Spay/neuter surgeries for cats and dogs (age and health-appropriate), including pre-op exam, anesthesia, surgery, analgesia, post-op instructions, and short-term post-op meds. Optional/add-ons: Vaccinations (rabies, DHPP/FVRCP), microchipping, flea/tick treatment, basic preventive meds (deworming), ear cleaning. Education: Pre- and post-op counseling and outreach materials on benefits of sterilization.

## **Clinic Model & Operations**

A separate building adjacent to the facility will house clinic intake, provide storage and a holding/recovery area for surgical patients. Dogs will be housed in cages and cats will stay in their carriers.

Existing in facility surgical room.

Existing OR hardware (surgery table, anesthesia machine, autoclave) plus a few additional items.

Operating days/hours: Pilot: one day per week starting January 2026; appointments required.

Workflow: Appointment-based.

Pre-surgical screening and residency verification required.

Volume planning: Conservative target: 20 surgeries per clinic day; projected Year 1 pilot volume: ~960 surgeries.

## **Staffing & Roles**

- Contract veterinarian for clinic day (1 day/week). Veterinarian to provide proof of professional liability and licensing.
- Veterinary technician(s): 1 experienced tech (Facility director) + 1 recovery assistant/volunteer for clinic day.
- Reception/volunteer: 1 for intake and discharges. -Facility staff will help with scheduling as needed
- On-call vet backup for post-op complications/concerns (Contract veterinarian to provide after hours contact with clients)

## **Equipment & Supplies** (leveraging existing equipment)

Existing core equipment on site: surgical table, anesthesia machine, sterilizing autoclave, and some surgical packs.

Additional recommended items to start the clinic safely:

- Multi parameter vital-sign monitor with SpO2, ECG, NIBP, and temperature.
- Additional surgical instrument sets (15 extra spay/neuter packs).
- Endotracheal tubes (assorted sizes), laryngoscope, and anesthesia-circuit consumables.
- Initial inventory of sterile disposables: suture packs, scalpel blades, drapes, surgical sponges, analgesics, and a basic emergency drug kit.
- Ongoing inventory of disposables and replacement instruments/equipment should be included in the operating budget.

Estimated cost for extra items: less than \$10,000.

### **Revenue sources**

- Client fees
- County funding for building and extra starting item/equipment (one time investment) -Grants
- Donations

### **Suggested sample pricing model**

- Cat spay: \$90
- Cat neuter: \$60
- Dog spay: \$120
- Dog neuter: \$90
- Add-on vaccines and microchips priced modestly.

### **Software**

Clinic software: Clin HQ, integrated with the facility's existing Shelter Luv platform (the system currently in use). Appointments will be booked primarily online, with staff assistance available. A deposit is required for all bookings; deposits are refundable only if an appointment is rescheduled at least 48 hours in advance. Otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and credited to operating funds.

### **Public safety**

Patients must show proof of current rabies vaccination or will be vaccinated at surgery; this will raise rabies vaccination coverage in the county. Given recent rabies cases reported in Indiana and Kentucky, rabies prevention is a high priority.

### **Collaboration with local veterinarians**

The low-cost clinic will work closely with Harrison County's local veterinarians to ensure continuity of care. We will maintain a vetted list of participating veterinary practices in Harrison County to be included with every discharge packet and provided verbally at pickup. Clinic staff will review the list with clients, recommend that they establish a relationship with a routine/primary veterinarian for wellness exams and ongoing preventive care, and offer referrals when follow-up or specialty services are needed. In addition, the clinic will coordinate with local vets for post-op complications, after-hours guidance, and opportunities for subsidized services through partner practices. This collaborative approach strengthens local veterinary capacity and helps ensure long-term health for patients and peace of mind for owners.

### **Contacts & Project Leads**

Rusty Timberlake, HCAC director, Dr. Marie Gagnon, Harrison County Animal  
Control existing contract veterinarian.