

[Include your organization's return address or print the letter on your organization's letterhead]

[DATE]

[Insert who you are addressing the letter to – include their names, rather than just their position or generic title]

[include a blurb about your organization and its mission]

In 2012 the CFHS released a ground breaking multi-stakeholder report on the crisis of cat overpopulation in Canada that demonstrated the scope of negative consequences of cat overpopulation including homelessness, overburdened shelters, and euthanasia. They found that shelters across the country are at or over capacity, and their resources are strained dealing with homeless cats and dogs.

While animal shelters across Canada are doing all they can to find homes for adoptable animals, it is vital that we stop the flow of unwanted animals into shelters in the first place. Following the overpopulation report, on World Spay Day (February 25) 2014, the CFHS released *The Case for Accessible Spay/Neuter in Canada* (funded by PetSmart Charities of Canada) – a detailed document that presents the evidence that accessible spay/neuter is the solution to the companion animal overpopulation crisis in Canada. This report is available at www.cfhs.ca. Accessible spay/neuter means spay/neuter services that are available to as many pet guardians as possible, and include subsidized spay/neuter, high-quality/high volume surgeries, mobile services and transportation programs. They are often linked with education and incentives.

The Case for Accessible Spay/Neuter in Canada report explains how the spaying and neutering of cats and dogs reduces companion animal overpopulation by preventing the birth of unwanted animals. It lays out the different costs to society of companion animal overpopulation, including costs for animal control and for caring for homeless animals, as well as public health costs. In addition, the report provides many examples that demonstrate why spay/neuter programs are proactive and effective in addressing these costs through reducing animal complaints, reducing public spending, and reducing shelter intake and euthanasia levels.

Accessible spay/neuter initiatives have been proven to support private veterinary practices by attracting clients who are not yet in a relationship with a veterinarian. They also promote the use of traditional veterinary services.

Despite all the good evidence for the public benefits of accessible spay/neuter, **[insert name of your community]** still does not have such a program. We would like to

[choose the option you prefer:]

invite you to meet with us along with **[insert names of other organizations you are working with, including local veterinarians, all shelters and rescues in the area]** and other concerned community members to discuss this critical community issue.

OR

request you to host a town hall meeting with **[local veterinarians, all shelters and rescues in the area]** and other concerned community members to discuss this critical community issue.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[include your signature and contact information]