



A Fundraising License Plate to Benefit Michigan's Dogs and Cats

WHAT: MPA proposes that Michigan join 26 other states with a not-for-profit license plate funding critically needed spay/neuter for low-income families and community programs across the state, along with training and support for animal welfare employees and volunteers.

WHO: The Michigan Pet Alliance (MPA) is Michigan's only statewide association representing animal shelters, rescue organizations, and pet lovers.

MPA's mission is to ensure every sheltered animal receives high-quality, humane care and to improve the welfare of Michigan's companion animals. We do this through training, professional continuing education, and speaking out for better protections for our beloved pets.

WHY: Today, about 70% of households own one or more pets. According to the AVMA's pet ownership statistics, over 2.7 million dogs and 2.2 million cats live with Michigan families. The highest number of pet owners in our history -- making animal welfare services more important than ever.

Studies show that the main barrier to getting a pet spayed or neutered is cost. Despite widespread love for animals, essential animal welfare and veterinary services are drastically underfunded.

Too many residents cannot afford to spay/neuter, adding to overpopulation. Michigan shelters are facing a capacity crisis not seen in years. A crisis they cannot fix alone.

Most shelters and rescues are also stretched far too thin financially to provide necessary training to their staff and volunteers. In an already high-stress, low-wage industry, this adds to high burnout, unsafe situations, and worsening outcomes for animals and communities.

Pets are our family, and important to our well-being. Services that support pet families, prevent overpopulation, improve welfare, and prevent dangerous situations save much more than they cost, and strengthen the health and safety of our communities.

Michigan needs a specialty plate to fund critical spay/neuter services and training at animal shelters and rescues.