

'Nooters Club' recognizes responsible pet owners

By Alison Bergsieker
STAFF WRITER

Each year, an estimated 5 to 9 million homeless dogs and cats are euthanized by shelters simply because they are unwanted, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

One local pet store owner is offering incentives to customers for adopting and purchasing pets to fight the problem of pet overpopulation.

Addy Murphy, owner of three Pet Supplies Plus stores, including two in the White Lake area, created "Nooters Club" — a discount club for owners who had have their pets spayed or neutered.

Customers who bring in a printout of veterinary records showing their pet has been fixed will receive a free T-shirt. If they wear the T-shirt to the store on Wednesdays, they'll receive 10 percent off their total purchase.

"Even people who had their animals spayed six months ago can come in and get a T-shirt," Murphy said.

Even if a customer doesn't have a sterilized pet, they still can purchase the shirts for \$14 and receive the weekly dis-

count.

Other merchandise available for purchase includes sweatshirts, nightshirts, boxers, tote bags, pet bandanas and window decals. The company donates a part of the proceeds to rescue organization spay and neuter programs.

"Pet Supplies Plus is dedicated to being focused on the community and helping animals," said Linda Waste, president of NooterWear Inc.

Murphy offers incentives for customers who adopt pets from her stores too.

"If you purchase a cat, you leave a \$75 deposit and can get back \$50 if you prove it was vaccinated," Murphy said. "And you get a free bag of food and 10 percent of anything you need for your pet that day."

For more information on the club, visit www.nootersclub.org. Contact the M-59 Pet Supplies Plus store at (248) 889-4131.

Alison Bergsieker is a reporter for the Milford Times. She can be reached by phone at (248) 685-1507 ext. 260 or by e-mail at abergsieker@gannett.com.



Photo by HAL GOULD

White Lake Pets Supplies Plus in White Lake is offering special incentives for pet owners who spay or neuter their pet with the "Nooters Club." Pictured are Addy Shattuck holding 5-year-old Callie and Linda Wasche, holding Tasha, a 4-year-old female.

DID YOU KNOW?

■ Millions of healthy cats, dogs and rabbits are euthanized in the United States each year.

■ Purebred animals account for 30 percent of homeless pets at shelters.

■ "Fixed" pets live longer lives, have fewer health problems, don't get uterine, ovarian or testicular cancer, get fewer occurrences of breast cancer or prostate disease.

■ Sterilized pets are more affectionate, are less likely to spray and mark territory, don't go into a heat cycle, have fewer behavior and temperament problems and are less likely to roam, run away or get into fights.

■ Altering rabbits can reduce behaviors such as lunging, mounting, spraying and boxing.

Sources: The United States Humane Society, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.