

Benefits of a private practice partnership:

- Provides a low-cost spay/neuter program with little startup expenses.
- Facility is already compliant with state regulations.
- Volume equals a monthly visit by a mobile unit or spay neuter transport (25 to 50 per month per participating clinic). Can be combined with different models as needed.
- Volunteers can concentrate on outreach, leadership and “getting folks in the door”,
- Fundraising is directly for sliding scale and not bricks and mortar (or rent, etc.), so roughly 40 surgeries per thousand dollars of subsidy.
- No overhead so is not a financial loss during slow times.
- Aftercare mechanism is built in (emergency aftercare capacity is mandated in most states),
- The host organization does not have to compete with other communities for available days of a mobile spay/neuter unit that visits multiple communities!

Drawbacks:

- The spaces are limited and this model may not provide a sufficient level of services.
- Ongoing, clear communication is a necessity because this model combines people who may have different priorities. If there are weekly surgeries one morning a week, the staff can perceive it as ‘extra work,’ or feel the clients are not truly needy enough, and resent the program (see box).
- The appointment line and prepayment system require serious commitment from the humane organization. Many of our clients cannot use a cash app and must have a way to prepay in cash.
- It is labor intensive to juggle the program into a busy practice.