Support H.B. 1201:
Help Indiana Save Lives and Money

Preliminary data from Indiana University indicates that over 125,000 animals are surrendered to Indiana shelters each year. Although there is not yet comprehensive state data relating to euthanasia rates, initial data suggests that around 40% of these animals are euthanized due to the lack of available homes. This comes at a cost of more than $12.5 million spent by local governments caring for animals who are ultimately euthanized. Many Hoosier communities are also struggling with large populations of stray dogs and the resultant risks to public health and safety.

Indiana is fortunate to have more than 200 shelters and rescues that focus on finding permanent homes for thousands of cats and dogs each year. Most of these organizations require that their animals are spayed or neutered before adoption, which is considered to be the best practice. Thirty-two other states already require spay/neuter before adoption.

Animals adopted from the shelters and rescues in Indiana that do not require spay/neuter before adoption may continue to breed. Their offspring further burden taxpayer-funded animal care and control and the other shelters and rescue groups that are struggling to house and find permanent homes for these animals.

H.B. 1201 will significantly address the problem by requiring shelters and rescue groups to spay/neuter dogs and cats before adoption beginning in July 2021. This five-year grace period will give organizations that do not currently require spay/neuter time to formulate a plan to meet the deadline. Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana (SNSI) will help to provide funding to organizations as they transition to required spay/neuter over the next five years.

This bill will also establish a registry of humane shelters and rescue groups throughout Indiana. This information will help the animal welfare community work together to bring Indiana to "zero", meaning that zero healthy and treatable cats and dogs would be euthanized due to a lack of a home.

Please support H.B. 1201 to require spay/neuter before adoption