

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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## ***It's The Cat's Meow! Indoor Cats & Outdoor Custodial Cats In Zip Codes 07304 & 07305 Are Eligible For Free Spay/Neuter Services Program is Funded through a Grant from PetSmart Charities® – And There's A Free Pet Carrier To Boot!***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerriamiah T. Healy and the **Department of Health and Human Services/Animal Control** are pleased to announce a no cost spay/neuter program open to cats only whose owners reside in one of two targeted zip codes. Last year, the City was awarded a \$79,500 grant from **PetSmart Charities®** to help end the overwhelming number of strays and the surrendering of unwanted animals with a targeted spay/neuter program.

While this opportunity is open to all indoor kitties, for the first time it is also available to all backyard/neighborhood cats who simply refuse to move inside and who are under the custodianship of a resident. This grant allows the City to help cat owners spay or neuter their indoor cats and friendly outdoor felines (no feral cats, please) in a particular zip code, in this case 07304 and 07305. These zip codes were chosen because of the amount of owner surrenders, strays, and dead animals reported in that particular area. Cats don't need to be licensed for this program. As the grant money is limited, all spay/neuters are on a first come, first serve basis.

“We understand that many people are struggling, and that is why we sought private funding to help our pet owners who may be facing difficult times and encourage them to take advantage of these services,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Our goal, and **PetSmart Charities®**' goal, is to provide owners with the opportunity of keeping their pets rather than surrendering them to a shelter or abandoning them on the street. By working together, we can create a happier and healthier environment for our pets and the community.”

Spaying or neutering is one of the greatest gifts residents can provide their cats, their families and their community. These routine medical procedures not only help control the cat overpopulation, but they may also prevent medical and behavioral problems from developing, allowing pets to lead a longer, healthier, and happier life.

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Residents should contact Robin Pinkowitz at (201) 547-5507 to schedule services for their indoor or outdoor custodial cat. Residents who need a cat carrier to transport their cat to the vet for his/her free spay/neuter will be given a cardboard carrier, courtesy of the Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services. Please speak with Robin when calling to book your appointment.

**ABOUT PETSMART CHARITIES®**

Established in 1994, PetSmart Charities, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that creates and supports programs that save the lives of homeless pets, raise awareness of companion animal welfare issues and promote healthy relationships between people and pets. The largest funder of animal-welfare efforts in North America, PetSmart Charities has provided more than \$165 million in grants and programs benefiting animal-welfare organizations and has helped save the lives of more than 5 million pets through its in-store adoption program. To learn more about how PetSmart Charities is working toward its vision of a lifelong, loving home for every pet, visit [petsmartcharities.org](http://petsmartcharities.org) or call 1-800-423-PETS (7387).

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///**