



**September 30, 2016**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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(JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.) - The Missouri Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Missouri State Humane Association (MoSHA), granted \$15,000 this month to several organizations providing spay and neuter services in Missouri.

Funding for the grants is provided from the proceeds of the "I'm Pet Friendly" license plate program. Proceeds are collected by the Missouri State Humane Association when individuals apply for their pet friendly license plates. The Missouri Department of Agriculture appoints a board of three individuals to review grant applications and award grants. All grantees provide spay and neuter services in Missouri.

The following organizations received grants in 2016: Animal Kind, Inc.(Southwest Missouri); Ava Area Animal Welfare League, Jr.(Ava); BARC (St. Louis); Circle of Paws (Ash Grove); Ferals in Peril, Inc. (Hermann); Four Legs and Fur Animal Society (Hermitage); Franklin County Humane Society (Union); Independence Animal Service (Independence); Kirksville - Protect Our Pets (Kirksville); Kitty Cat Connection (Kansas City); Northland Animal Welfare Society (Gladstone); Perry Animal Welfare Society (Perryville); Protect Every Pet, Inc. (Bland); Tri-County Friends for Animals (St. James); and Tri-Lakes Humane Society (Reeds Spring).

To support spay and neuter services in Missouri, you may purchase the "I'm Pet Friendly" license plate. At least \$20 of every \$25 collected funds spay and neuter services. Since its inception, this program has provided more than \$200,000 in spay and neuter services grants. Please go to [mostatehumane.org](http://mostatehumane.org) for more information and instructions.

**About the Missouri State Humane Association/ "I'm Pet Friendly" License Plate program:**

The "I'm Pet Friendly" license plate program was established through legislation to provide spay neuter programs throughout Missouri with funds to support their work.

The Missouri State Humane Association was founded to administer the license plate program by providing the public with the documents needed to secure their plates, collecting funds, working with the Department of Agriculture, and marketing the program. MoSHA is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization that is not affiliated with any humane society, shelter or government agency.

Organizations and agencies performing spay neuter services in their respective communities have the opportunity to apply for grants provided by the funds collected from the "I'm Pet Friendly" license plate fees.

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