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**Charlotte A. Randolph, Parish President**

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5:30 P.M.  
Tuesday, June 28, 2011

### **Spay/Neuter Vouchers Available for Lafourche Residents Beginning July 1**

Lafourche Parish Government will make \$50.00 vouchers available to Lafourche Parish residents who wish to have their pet spayed or neutered. The vouchers will be available beginning Friday, July 1, 2011, through the Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter.

Any parish resident wanting to obtain a voucher should make an appointment with their veterinarian to have their pet spayed or neutered. Once the appointment is made, that resident must contact the Animal Shelter with the details of the appointment, and the voucher will then be faxed to the veterinarian's office the morning of the appointment. The voucher will cover the first \$50.00 of the total cost to have a cat or dog spayed or neutered.

The voucher program is funded by a \$25,000 grant from Lafourche Parish Government, approved in May by the Parish Council. The program initially began in 2007 shortly after the opening of the Animal Shelter. While the program has been altered over the past few years, the goals have remained the same: to encourage pet owners to have their pets spayed or neutered and to help population control of stray animals around the parish. To that end, officials say, the program has succeeded.

“We’ve definitely seen a decrease in the number of animals brought in to the shelter each year,” said Shelly Toups, Health Activities Manager for Lafourche Parish Government. “With these vouchers, more residents can now afford to get their pet spayed/neutered, which ultimately means less animals coming in to the shelter.”

For more information, or to obtain a voucher, residents can contact the Lafourche Parish Animal Shelter at (985) 446-3532. The shelter is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. and is closed Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. For more information on the shelter and to see pets available for adoption, visit the Lafourche Parish Government website at <http://www.lafourchegov.org>.

The America Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) says the decision to spay or neuter your cat or dog is one of the most important health decisions you’ll make with regard to your pet. In females, spaying helps prevent infections and leads to a longer, healthier life. In males, neutering will improve behavior and provide major health benefits including the prevention of cancer.

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