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## Spay/neuter clinic in the works for Barrie

### Former Marion Vernon Memorial clinic closing to make way for new facility

Posted By Andrea Nicholl  
Posted 2 months ago

Fewer puppies and kittens may be running around town with the opening of a new spay/neuter clinic in Barrie.

The former Marion Vernon Memorial full service animal clinic will be closed by May 29, by the Ontario SPCA, to prepare for the transition to a high- volume spay/neuter service clinic.

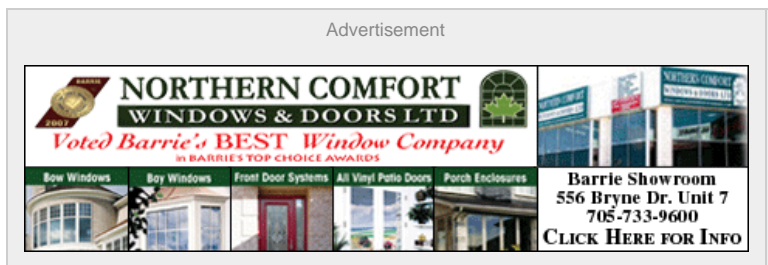
"Opening Ontario's first dedicated spay/neuter service in Newmarket and now in Barrie, is part of our ongoing efforts to reduce shelter intake and ensure that every animal has a loving home," said Christa Chadwick, Ontario SPCA director of animal care, in a release.

The spay/neuter service will be the second clinic in the province to provide the high volume surgeries.

The Newmarket service opened in February of this year and has completed more than 1,200 spay/neuter surgeries to date.

Kristin Williams, with the OSPCA, said that the idea was adopted from a "very effective" American model that has led to a 70 per cent decrease in animal euthanasia and shelter intake in the US. Spay/neuter clinics can accommodate between 25 to 30 surgeries a day, incomparable to standard animal clinics.

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"It's part of an overall strategy to ensure that we have enough willing adoptive homes in the province. One of the ways we can do that is to increase public awareness and resources," Williams said.

The OSPCA has not announced an opening date, but says that the clinic will be open within the next few months. The clinic will be open to the public, shelters and rescue groups, regardless of location.

"Everybody who has a pet has a responsibility to get them fixed," Williams said. "It's far more cruel to bring animals into this province that may not have a home, or may suffer neglect, like so many animals do."

Spaying/neutering can reduce health risks, physical stress, improve behavior and makes the animals less likely to roam, reducing the risk of injury, accident and loss.

Cats and dogs as young as six months can have a litter, but pet owners are advised to consult a veterinarian as the appropriate time for spay/neuter varies among animals.

The service clinic will soon hire veterinarians and vet technicians. Job postings will be available on their provincial

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• Andrea Nicholl is the Examiner's intern from Sheridan College.

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