



88 Beech Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452
(802) 878-6888 voice • www.vtvets.org • kathy@vtvets.org

April 11, 2017
Statement in support of H. 219
Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program

The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association supports the continued participation of Vermont veterinarians in the Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program. VSNIP is a popular program, providing our low-income veterinary clients with low cost spay/neuter services for their pets. Because of our strong support for the program, we urge you to pass H. 219 to allow, rather than require, the Agency of Human Services to implement VSNIP through a contract with a qualified organization.

The VVMA believes that passing this legislation will ensure that the program continues if no qualified organization applies to administer the program.

During the years that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) administered VSNIP, VVMA members found them to be a responsive and reliable partner, and we worked with them to keep the standard of veterinary care acceptable to veterinarians while controlling the costs for the taxpayers. DCF had the necessary income data readily available, thus eliminating the uncertainties for us of whether clients will qualify.

Vermont's veterinarians are integral to this program, and we are committed to continuing to improve VSNIP, address the problems of unwanted pets, and make responsible pet ownership possible for low-income Vermonters. H. 219 is a responsible and necessary change to the statutes, and we hope the Senate Government Operations Committee will report it out favorably. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. David Hyde, Chair
VVMA Government Relations Committee
Ryegate Small Animal Hospital
dbhyde71@ryegatevet.com