

## **Fundraising Ideas** **The Spay-ghetti and No Balls** **Dinner and Auction and more!**

First, you must secure a location for your event. In our case, the local Elks Lodge let us use their facility for no charge!

Next, get grocery stores to donate what they can. Our local stores donated all items such as paper plates, napkins, plastic silverware, paper tablecloths, cups, iced tea, and coffee.

Restaurants can also be asked for donations. In our case, one restaurant made the garlic bread, and another restaurant made the sauces. (Serve both vegetarian and meat sauce.) Another restaurant could donate salad fixings.

(If you can't get a restaurant to donate sauce, here is a suggestion: have a bunch of people each make 1 gallon of sauce. Then mix them together. This always turns out well!)

Pepsi or Coca Cola may want to donate soft drinks.

See if you can get a local band to donate its services for the night — music makes it more festive!

**The noodle secret:** cook the noodles the day before your event! Cook the noodles according to package directions, then drain and rinse well in cold water. Add some olive oil and crushed garlic to the cold noodles and store them in a big container. The night of the dinner, use pasta pans with inserts and bring water to a boil. Place the cooked noodles in the boiling water to heat it up, then drain, and place in a roaster at 200 degrees. Add a little more olive oil and crushed garlic.

### **How much food to make?**

To serve 50 people, plan on:

10 pounds of spaghetti

10 jars of sauce

7 loaves of bread

3 bottles of Parmesan cheese

7 pounds of salad

2 bottles of Ranch dressing

2 bottles of Italian dressing

2 bottles of Blue Cheese dressing

Don't worry if you have too much food! We served our leftovers at the Spay/Neuter Clinic, and gave what was extra to the local soup kitchen. Have girl scouts and boy scouts serve and set up the tables and chairs. You will need volunteers at the door, in the kitchen, and for cleanup and tear down of tables.

### **What to charge?**

SUGGESTED DONATION - \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids - most people gave more!

## Ideas for the Silent Auction

### Auction Sheets

Have value of item listed, and HIGH minimum starting bid (at least 40-60% of value), circled in **RED**. It's a fundraiser, not a yard sale!

Bid in increments of \$5.

ONE item per sheet (Most fund raisers put lots of items together in a package - you will make more money if the items are separate! Items worth \$10-\$20 usually go for more than they are worth!)

Carefully describe item at top of sheet so there is no confusion regarding item being bid on.

Have bidder PRINT name, phone number, and price he/she is bidding. Better yet, assign bidders a bidding number, so bids are anonymous. (People don't want to bid against their friends - so this will bring the price up!)

### Sample Auction Sheet:

#### **Spay-ghetti Dinner Auction will end at 9:00**

Winners will be announced and can pay for and pick up items at that time

Winners not present will be called

All Proceeds go to

Your Local Animal Shelter

and

The Montana Spay / Neuter Task Force

Item donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Value of item: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Bid in Minimum Increments of \$5

Opening Bid for this item is.....

Name or Bidder Number \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Bid \_\_\_\_\_

Name or Bidder Number \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Bid \_\_\_\_\_

Name or Bidder Number \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Bid \_\_\_\_\_

### During the Auction

Have the Silent Auction in the same room as the Dinner. If possible, have the items where people waiting in line for their dinner can see them!

Have a band playing, or some kind of entertainment.

Near the end of the Auction, start announcing, "Silent Auction ends in 15 minutes", then 10 minutes, then 5, and then 2. Start a bidding frenzy!

## **Check out**

Alphabetize winners by last name. (Unless bidding #'s were used!) If one person has multiple purchases, add them up and have his/her total ready.

Announce winners so they can pick up their items and pay that night!

Speed up checkout. Have 4 lines for people to check out alphabetically: A-G, H-M, N-S, and T-Z.

Or have one line for cash, one for checks, and one for credit cards.

## **Other Ideas**

Have a table of items for sale from your local animal shelter! "Did you Know - these items and more are available at the Your Local Shelter?"

Sell our [Bumper Stickers!](#)

Have posters stating the cost of fixing and vaccinating a cat and a dog, and then posters with what it costs to adopt at your shelter. Many people don't realize what a good deal the adoption fee is!

Have donation jars in various areas... desert table, at check in, near band. Have donation jars LABELED, "Please make checks out to:"

Have complimentary bowls of Life Savers and Smarties!

Have posters on the walls with facts about your local animal shelter. Have photos of animals available for adoption from your shelter at each table!

When collecting auction items, keep in mind that restaurant gift certificates are the most popular!

Make posters that list all the businesses that donated to the event.

If possible, put a thank-you ad in a monthly paper listing all volunteers and businesses that helped with the event.

Have a program that lists all donated auction items and their values, the 27 ways to be kind to animals listed here, and thank ALL the volunteers and businesses that donated food!

## **27 Ways to be Kind to Animals**

1. Spay or neuter your dog or cat
2. Adopt pets from an animal shelter
3. Spend quality time with your pet daily
4. Take pets for annual health exams and recommended vaccinations
5. Make sure they always wear up to date ID tags
6. Provide pets with plenty of exercise
7. Don't leave your dog alone in a car
8. Provide nutritious food and constant fresh water for your pets
9. Use a non-choking collar on your dog or cat

10. Make sure they have access to shade in the summer, heat in the winter, and someplace dry
11. Groom your pet often
12. Keep your vet's office and emergency numbers handy
13. Never kick, hit, or spank a pet
14. Keep pets away from toxic household chemicals
15. Volunteer to care for a busy or elderly neighbor's pet
16. Be aware when driving to avoid hitting animals
17. Volunteer at your local animal shelter
18. Buy from companies that don't do animal testing
19. Report animal abuse to proper authorities
20. Pick up litter that might injure animals
21. Plant trees and shrubs in your back yard to make birds feel welcome
22. Never buy anything made from wild animals
23. Put up a bird feeder
24. Report injured animals to animal shelters and injured wildlife to Fish and Game
25. Leave all animals, including insects, in their natural homes
26. Keep chocolate away from your pets- it can poison them
27. Quit smoking. Secondhand smoke can cause illness in animals

### **Advertising**

Posters are good, but classified ads are very effective and inexpensive! Write a press release and send it to your local paper and radio station.

People really liked the name *Spay-ghetti and No Balls*. We got lots of laughs, hundreds of positive comments, and only one complaint.