



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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First Lady Nez and Second Lady Lizer proclaim “Pet Spay and Neuter Awareness Month”



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, First Lady Phefelia Nez, Second Lady Dottie Lizer, Navajo Nation Animal Control Program, and Navajo Nation Veterinary Management during the Pet Spay and Neuter Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony on Feb. 19, 2021 in Window Rock, Ariz.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Friday, Navajo Nation First Lady Phefelia Nez and Second Lady Dottie Lizer were joined by President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, Navajo Nation Veterinary Management, and Navajo Nation Animal Control Program to sign a proclamation to recognize the month of February as the "Navajo Nation Pet Spay and Neuter Awareness Month" to encourage Navajo citizens to spay and neuter their pets to avoid the overpopulation of kittens and puppies.

The proclamation states a critical need to increase awareness of domestic animals and pets' enormous overpopulation, such as dogs and cats on the Navajo Nation. Overpopulation contributes to these animals suffering from infectious diseases and untreated injuries. Additionally, many of these animals are left to roam without homes and threaten the safety of communities.

"This month is an important time to prevent unwanted dog and cat litters during the spring and summer months. Overproduction of domestic animals happens during the spring and summer, and abandonment of animals increases and animal shelters become overwhelmed. As Navajo people, we need to protect and care for our animals and pets by spaying and neutering them," said First Lady Nez. "As we address this concerning problem on the Nation, we have to bring awareness to help solve the issue."

According to Navajo Nation Animal Control Program manager Kevin Gleason, one mating pair of dogs can produce 5,800 dogs in five years. There are over one million domestic animals in the Nation, and owners need to comply with the Animal Control Ordinance, which includes regulations on rabies, vaccinations, animal bites, livestock damage, impoundment procedures, and others. Noncompliance fines may range from \$50 to \$200 per animal.

The proclamation also states, "The Navajo Nation has established animal control laws to protect the health, safety, and property of people and address responsible pet ownership and overpopulation, disease and neglect of animals. It is the responsibility of the people to protect and preserve the animals using the resources that are available, such as sterilization clinics, vaccination clinics, and animal adoption programs."

"Abandonment of puppy and kitten litters is a major issue on the Nation. We can all help to solve this problem. If you are adding a pet to your family, make sure you spay and neuter them. Find local services to find what is best for your pet. Before adding a pet to your home, recognize all the responsibilities to keep your pet safe and healthy. Educate your children, friends, family members, and co-workers about pet overpopulation," said Second Lady Lizer.

The Office of the First Lady and Second Lady will host a webinar on Friday, Feb. 26, on the "Navajo Nation OPVP Communications" YouTube channel to provide additional resources and services to become a responsible pet owner and to encourage citizens to volunteer and donate to help solve the concern of unwanted and unsterilized animals.

"Spaying and neutering ultimately help your pet live a healthier and longer life. Sterilization also decreases the chances of pet homelessness and overcrowding of animal shelters. As Navajo people, we believe that our animals protect us from harm, stress, and loneliness, and we have to learn how to protect them as well," added First Lady Nez.

Contact your local veterinarian to schedule an appointment for your pet or visit the Navajo Nation Veterinary Management website <https://www.navajoveterinaryprogram.com> for more information.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

Recognizing the Month of February 2021 as "Pet Spay and Neuter Awareness Month"

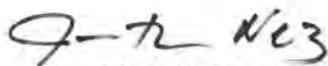
WHEREAS, Diné Natural Law, 1 N.N.C. § 205 et seq., declares and teaches that all creation, from Mother Earth and Father Sky to the animals, have their own laws and have rights and freedoms to exist; and the Diné have the sacred obligation and duty to respect, preserve and protect all that was provided for as we were designated as the steward for these relatives through our use of the sacred gifts of language and thinking; and

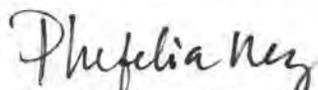
WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation has established animal control laws to protect the health, safety and property of people and address responsible pet ownership and over population, disease and neglect of animals; it is the responsibility of the Diné to protect and preserve the animals using the resources that are available such as spay and neuter clinics, vaccination clinics and animal adoption programs; and

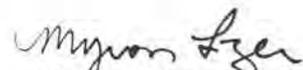
WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation has an enormous overpopulation of domestic animals/pets such as dogs and cats that contributes to the suffering of these animals through infectious diseases such as parvo and mange, suffering from untreated injuries, and unwanted animals that are left to roam, and dogs running at large that may become a threat to livestock and people; we have an obligation to be a steward for the animals, to protect and care for them.

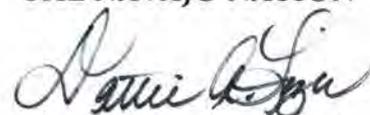
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice-President of the Navajo Nation, with First Lady **Phefelia Nez** and Second Lady **Dottie Lizer**, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2021 as the "Navajo Nation Pet Spay and Neuter Awareness Month" and urge the people of our Nation to spay and neuter their pets to reduce the overpopulation of dog and cats in our communities.

PROCLAIMED THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021


Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Phefelia Nez, *First Lady*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Dottie Lizer, *Second Lady*
THE NAVAJO NATION