

## SNIPPING STRAY ANIMALS

At least two local groups have made strides this summer in trying to cut the number of stray animals in the city.

**EmanciPET**, a mobile spay and neuter clinic, estimates that unwanted animals cost Austin about \$4 million every year. EmanciPET's founder and director, **Ellen Jefferson**, has more than tripled the clinic's

surgery capacity this summer. The group says its efforts over the past three years have resulted in a 20 percent decrease in the number of animals that had to be euthanized.

And on a somewhat cheerier note, the **Spay-Neuter Incentive Program** — known as **SNIP** — says its

coalition membership has opened to businesses that aren't related to pets.

More than 80 companies are part of SNIP, founded by **DogBoy's Dog Ranch**. They offer discounts and free treats to pet owners who can prove their animals have been spayed or neutered.

Now **Amy's Ice Creams**, the **Woodstone Apartments** and craft store **The Work\*shop** have come aboard as SNIP members.

All in an effort to keep Austin from going to the dogs — literally.

■ Jenny Robertson

