



01 IT'S HIP TO SNIP

FEBRUARY IS SPAY/NEUTER MONTH

Every day in the United States, 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. Every day in the United States, 10,000 humans are born. These statistics show a main reason why so many animals are in shelters.

You can help decrease the number of animals coming to the Tulsa Animal Welfare Shelter by spaying or neutering your pet. Benefits of spaying or neutering include:

- **Increase chances for longer, healthier lives**
- **Minimize risk of disease in reproductive organs**
- **Reduce aggressive behavior, including dog bites**
- **Lower desire to escape from home in search of a mate**
- **Owners avoid a citation for having an unsterilized animal in the City of Tulsa. Yes, it's the law in Tulsa to spay or neuter pets.**

City ordinance requires all dogs and cats over the age of six months to be spayed or neutered. Certain exemptions are allowed by permit.

Tulsa Animal Welfare does not offer spay/neuter services to the public. Consult a veterinarian or low-cost spay/neuter clinic. For more information, see: www.TulsaAnimalWelfare.org

CITY LIFE

FEBRUARY 2023

IN THIS EDITION OF CITY LIFE

01

SPAY OR NEUTER PETS

Dog, cat owners need to follow City ordinance, help control overpopulation.

02

DISPOSE OF PET WASTE

Picking up your pet's waste will help keep bacteria out of stormwater.

03

GET A BUILDING PERMIT

Ensure safety of new construction or structure repairs in a floodplain.

04

DAM-LEEVE FAILURES

Know where flooding could occur. Flood insurance can protect your property.

+ PLUS: KEEP FATS, OILS, GREASE OUT OF SEWERS

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02 PET WASTE DISPOSAL

HELP KEEP STORMWATER RUNOFF CLEAN

Stormwater runoff from our yards enters the city's storm drain system, which empties into the creeks, streams and rivers in the City of Tulsa. Pet waste enters these waterways by way of stormwater runoff.

The City of Tulsa monitors and regularly samples streams and stormwater outfalls for dozens of potential pollutants and uses Bacterial Source Tracking to help identify pollutant sources. In several Tulsa creeks, test results show that human and dog wastes are the leading sources of bacterial pollution.

As a pet owner, you can help keep creeks free of pollutants by picking up your pet's waste. Take a plastic bag or pooper scooper along on your walk. To reduce potential health hazards to our streams, here's how to dispose of pet waste:

- **Flush it into the sanitary sewer,**
- **Bury it in your yard, or**
- **Throw it in the trash.**

Save our streams. Disposal of anything other than stormwater to the storm drain system is a violation of city ordinances. To help keep our waterways clean and healthy, report to 311 any sewer overflow or unusual discharge to the storm drain system.

03 PERMITS NECESSARY

CONSTRUCT SAFELY IN A FLOODPLAIN

The City of Tulsa requires property owners to obtain building permits for new construction, improvements, remodeling and additions. Permits also are required for building repair for anything more than just cleanup after a storm or other damaging event. For safety from flooding, it is especially important to get a building permit when constructing in flood prone areas.

Tulsa's permitting process is designed to ensure that construction and building repairs are safe. Before beginning construction or adding on to an existing building, find out which permits are needed by contacting the Permit Center at (918) 596-9456.

To help protect buildings in the floodplain, building codes require that new residential buildings be elevated at least 1 foot above the regulatory flood elevation. Non-residential buildings may be elevated or floodproofed a minimum of 1 foot above the regulatory flood elevation. For substantial improvements to existing buildings, elevating or floodproofing may be required if improvements cost 50 percent or more of the market value of the building. This requirement also applies to repairs or a rebuild.

Even if you're not constructing a building, a floodplain permit must be obtained from the City before commencing any grading, filling, or excavation. Also get a building permit when installing safe rooms in flood prone areas. Always remember when seeking shelter during severe weather, avoid flood prone areas. Download the Tulsa Ready app.

Know your risk of flooding. Call City of Tulsa's Customer Care Center at 311 to find out the flood hazards on your property. Detailed floodplain boundary maps are available for viewing online at <http://maps.cityoftulsa.org/floodplains>. You also may call City of Tulsa's Customer Care Center at 311 to find out ways to protect your property from flooding. City Engineering Services staff is available to help you understand the flood risk to your property, interpret floodplain maps, explain flood insurance and provide technical assistance to help protect your property from flood damage.

TRAP THE GREASE

AVOID COSTLY HOME PLUMBING BILLS

Fats, oils, and grease aren't just bad for your arteries; they are bad for the sewers, too. When food scraps are washed down the drain, the fat and grease from the food can build up in your sewer lines, causing raw sewage to back up into homes, businesses and the environment. Anything with a fat content can contribute to grease-clogged pipes. Avoid costly home plumbing bills by following these three simple steps:

1. **TRAP** bacon grease or meat drippings in a sealable container and toss in the trash.
2. **SCRAPE** all food scraps in the compost or trash.
3. **WIPE** all greasy, oily, creamy, or buttery food residues from dishes before you wash them.

* *Running hot water and soap down the drain does not prevent grease build-up and blockages.*

You also can recycle your liquid cooking oils at the City's Household Pollutant Collection Facility, 4502 S. Galveston Ave. It is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 to 11:30 a.m. and noon to 4:30 p.m.

For more information on proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease, visit: www.TrapTheGreaseTulsa.com

Despite all these preventive measures, if you see, hear or smell something you think might be a sewage overflow or backup, report it immediately by calling (918) 586-6999. The City of Tulsa has a customer service employee available around the clock and, if needed, a work crew is available to inspect and take action.



04 DAM/LEVEE FAILURES

A POTENTIAL HAZARD TO SOME AREAS

Some low-lying areas of Tulsa are subject to flooding from failures in dams or levees. If you live or work in these inundation areas, or routinely drive through them, you should be aware of potential hazards and plan the best evacuation routes to keep your family safe. If you encounter a flooded road, turn around; don't drown.

Flood risk still exists! Where it can rain, it can flood. Know your risk of flooding. Remain vigilant during inclement weather. Tune in to the local news media for information about potential flooding or dangers from dam or levee failures. Download the Tulsa Ready app. For a map of flood inundation areas and other regulatory floodplains, visit: <http://maps.cityoftulsa.org/floodplains>

Buy a flood insurance policy. Whether or not you live or own property in a floodplain, flood insurance is available to all Tulsans and is required if you have a federally-backed mortgage on a property in the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) floodplain. Tulsa is ranked Class 1 in FEMA's Community Rating System and flood insurance discounts of 45 percent are available within the city limits. Flood insurance is available through the same insurance agent that handles your basic homeowner's insurance. Homeowner's insurance itself does not cover losses resulting from flooding.