

## VSNIP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Attention applicant:

**Please review the following information prior to completing the VSNIP application as it may assist you in that process.**

*Q: Who do I contact with questions about the application?*

**A: For questions about the application process, you may call 1-802-672-1087 or 1-877-867-1424 (toll free). The mailing address for the VSNIP office is VSNIP, P.O. Box 95, Bridgewater, Vermont 05034.**

*Q: Do I have to fill out a separate application for each dog or cat that I want spayed or neutered?*

**A: Yes you must fill out an application for each dog or cat.**

*Q: How many animals can I have spayed or neutered?*

**A: It is recommended that you have all unsterilized dogs and cats in your household spayed or neutered in order to help meet the intent of the VSNIP program and reduce the pet overpopulation problem.**

*Q: What will it cost me to have my dogs and cats spayed or neutered?*

**A: Currently, there is \$25.00 co-pay for each dog or cat you have spayed or neutered, and you as the owner will be responsible for paying this. Additionally, there may be other charges that you might be responsible for that are not covered by VSNIP, but your veterinarian must provide you with an estimate that outlines these charges prior to the time that services are performed. During this discussion, you have the option of declining the service(s).**

*Q: When and to whom will I be required to pay the \$25.00 per animal co-pay?*

**A: You will make this payment directly to the veterinary clinic that is providing the service, and the payment must be made prior to the time that the surgery is performed. The veterinary clinic will let you know whether they require payment of the co-pay prior to the day of surgery.**

*Q: Where do I have to go to have my dog or cat spayed or neutered?*

**A: You must choose one of the veterinary clinics that are participating in the VSNIP program. A list of participating veterinarians will be included with the voucher.**

- Q: *My dog or cat is in heat or she is pregnant. Can she still be spayed?*  
A: **You will need to discuss that with your veterinarian. VSNIP does NOT cover any additional surgical cost associated with her being in heat or pregnant.**
- Q: *How do I qualify for VSNIP?*  
A: **You may qualify for VSNIP by demonstrating that you are receiving assistance from one of the listed programs on the application. If you are not receiving benefits from any of the listed programs, you may qualify under Part B (see application) which is based on income and household size.**
- Q: *What do I show as proof of receiving benefits?*  
A: **You need to show proof of *current* receipt of benefits from one of the listed programs. An example of adequate proof could include a dated, signed photocopy of a statement of benefits. Proof of current eligibility must be returned with the completed application.**
- Q: *How long will it take the application to be processed?*  
A: **As long as the application is completed and any necessary proof of eligibility is included with the application when it is returned to VSNIP, processing goes quickly. If your application is approved, your voucher will be mailed to you within two business days.**
- Q: *What happens if my application is denied?*  
A: **If your application is denied based on income eligibility criteria, you will be mailed within two business days the information that will assist you in applying for a variance from the VSNIP income eligibility requirements. You may then seek approval for receipt of VSNIP benefits as an exception to the rule if you wish.**