



Nome Animal House
PO Box 809
Nome, AK 99762



Tigaraha Pet Resources
PO Box 781
Nome, AK 99762

February 15, 2026

RE: Alaska House Bill 258, Statewide Spay & Neuter Assistance Program

I'm writing today to express my support for House Bill 258, Alaska Statewide Spay & Neuter Assistance Program.

I'm writing on behalf of two pet care organizations in Nome, Alaska, the Nome Animal House, the only veterinary hospital the Bering Straits Region, and Tigaraha Pet Resources, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that facilitates a local spay/neuter assistance program.

The Nome Animal House is a full service veterinary clinic employing 3 itinerant veterinarians and 2 local veterinary technicians. Our veterinarians alternate traveling to Nome each month to provide veterinary services during our monthly 3-5 day clinics. During the times when the veterinarians aren't in Nome, our vet techs facilitate "tech assisted telemedicine" locally with our veterinarians on the phone. In 2025 we were able to conduct 12 (3-5 day) veterinary clinics where we offered full veterinary services including spay/neuter surgeries. We also responded to 30 medical emergencies, and 125 telemedicine cases in 2025. We are currently working on plans for a building expansion, to be completed in the summer of 2027, to be able to better facilitate a full time local veterinarian, something we've been working towards for a long time. In 2016 we started a Spay/Neuter Assistance Program where we raised money to help people pay for spay and neuter surgeries. The program started out by funding just a few spay/neuters per year, and, largely due to the partnership with the non-profit organization, Tigaraha Pet Resources, grew to assisting with 50 spay/neuter surgeries in 2025!

Tigaraha Pet Resources was formed in 2023 to identify the needs of pets in our region (owned and unowned), and find ways to meet those needs, while supporting programs that are working towards having a full time local veterinarian. Tigaraha Pet Resources partnered with the Nome Animal House to work together on the Spay/Neuter Assistance Program. The program has 3 different categories: General (applies funding to all spay/neuters), Low-Income (additional funding and donated services for low-income families), and Rescue (full funding and donated services for pets moving through rescue and rehoming organizations). Assistance for each category depends on funds available each year. Volunteers for the non-profit work very hard each year to raise money through our 3 annual fundraisers: Soup 'er Bowl, Tigaraha Trees, and Cups for Pups. We also look for grant opportunities and have several annual donors. In 2025 we were able to provide assistance for 50 spay/neuter surgeries, and we anticipate we will be able to surpass that number in 2026!

Rural communities in Northwest Alaska face many financial struggles. Veterinary care is often unattainable for many families. The state spay/neuter assistance program outlined in house bill 258 will have a positive impact on our communities, not only by helping to bring spay/neuter surgeries to the region, but by supporting veterinary programs like ours that are working hard to bring long term, local, consistent, affordable and sustainable veterinary care to our region.

Thank You!

Sandra Rowe
Nome Animal House - Owner & Manager
Tigaraha Pet Resources - President