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In-house surgery lab helps pet shelter trim costs



Fundraising, thrifty shopping and donations helped stock the surgery lab at the Riverside Regional Pet Shelter. Ozzy, a bulldog mix, is getting adopted, but first must surrender his reproductive organs. At left is Kelly Hulke, a veterinary technician, and veterinarian Gala Beckendorf. John Cross



Veterinary technician Rose Yost does her best to comfort Chance, a black lab that was neutered Thursday. John Cross

(<http://mankatofreepress.com/local/x1498148596/In-house-surgery-lab-helps-pet-shelter-trim-costs>)

By Robb Murray
Free Press Staff Writer (<http://mankatofreepress.com>)

MANKATO — Ozzy comes in groggy, carried gingerly in a woman's arms. On the floor is Chance, one of his comrades — tubes protruding from his mouth, tongue dangling out the side, blanket covering his body.

When Chance came in a half hour prior, he was a virile male, able and probably willing to procreate. Now ... well, he's not. And now it's Ozzy's turn for the same fate.

After injecting him with medicine to render him unconscious, Gala Beckendorf picks up a fresh scalpel and gets ready to do to Ozzy what she just did to Chance.

With Ozzy's limbs tied down to the table and his privates shaved, it's time for his neutering.

Ozzy and Chance — and many other dogs and cats — will each make a life-changing stop in this room at the Riverside Regional Pet Shelter. Before any dog or cat can be adopted, it must first be spayed or neutered if it hasn't been already.

Part of the shelter's mission is to make sure the population of unwanted pets is as low as possible. And now it can do all the spaying and neutering it needs to do right on site.

For the complete story, check out Friday's print edition or **e-edition** (<http://mankatofreepress.mn.newsmemory.com/>).



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