



**St. Mary's Animal Welfare League**  
*St. Mary's Spay Neuter Your Pet (SNYP) Program*

**Project #**  
**24-9079**

**Date of Report:** 10/13/2024

**Project Focus:** Owned Pets

**County(ies) Serviced:** St. Mary's County

**Total Number of Cats Spayed:** 54

**Total Number of Cats Neutered:** 53

**Total Number of Dogs Spayed:** 26

**Total Number of Dogs Neutered:** 28

**Total Number of Surgeries:** 161

**Amount Received:** \$20,470.00   **Amount Spent:** \$20,470.00   **Amount Remaining (to be returned):** \$0.00

**Project Synopsis:**

This project targeted low-income families living in specific zip codes in St. Mary's County. The goal was to reduce the number of unwanted or abandoned animals in the county. Additionally, these surgeries help to correct behavioral issues associated with leaving animals intact which put animals at an increased risk of abandonment or euthanization.

**Project Description:**

SMAWL started this project in January of 2024 and completed the project in September 2024 - ahead of schedule due to the large demand for this assistance. We are a volunteer-staffed non-profit operating in Southern Maryland. We focused on the five zip codes in St. Mary's County with the most dense population. Outreach efforts focus on social media and community outreach events in addition to marketing materials provided at our low cost vaccination clinics, local veterinary offices, and the municipal shelter. St. Mary's County Animal Control officers are very important to the success of this project as well.

**Summary of Approach:**

Project outreach included providing flyers to patrons at our vaccination clinics, local veterinary offices, food pantries, and the municipal shelter. Facebook and Instagram posts are also used as means of outreach. SMAWL participates in many community events, providing the opportunity to educate and assist residents of St. Mary's County with spay/neuter services in addition to providing vaccination and microchip information. St. Mary's Animal Control officers also provided our information to citizens in need of spay/neuter and other services. Where community members did not qualify for vouchers under this grant, we assisted them in finding other resources. Our volunteers are not only trained in evaluating requests for vouchers but also in matching community members with other assistance as needed.

**Accomplishments:**

We facilitated 161 spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations to community members who might otherwise have let their pets remain intact. Our community relationships have allowed us to be highly successful in our outreach and have resulted in the development of additional programs in support of our community members in need. Working closely with Animal Control officers and other rescues we have been able to assist with placement of unwanted or neglected animals. We are proud to support our community and to build relationships to lift up those in need.



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**Lessons Learned:**

We are the only source of spay/neuter assistance for pets in St. Mary's County. The need for this assistance remains high. Community cats and abandoned dogs remain a significant problem in St. Mary's County. This issue is exacerbated by the large number of Amish in the area who generally do not provide health care to companion animals which are bred as a source of income. Unsold animals are often left to roam free creating a steady stream of unaltered community animals. While we are very successful in assisting residents of St. Mary's County, this part of the community is not interested in participating in the voucher program.

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