



**Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter**  
*Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County*

**Project #**  
**24-9101**

**Date of Report:** 1/2/2025

**Project Focus:** Owned Pets

**County(ies) Serviced:** Calvert County

**Total Number of Cats Spayed:** 36

**Total Number of Cats Neutered:** 26

**Total Number of Dogs Spayed:** 42

**Total Number of Dogs Neutered:** 47

**Total Number of Surgeries:** 151

**Amount Received:** \$9,840.00    **Amount Spent:** \$9,840.00    **Amount Remaining (to be returned):** \$0.00

**Project Synopsis:**

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter (LLKAS) remains the only municipal shelter in Calvert County and also acts as the headquarters for Calvert County Animal Control. The LLKAS Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County program has been operational since 2023 thanks to grants from the MDA, help from our non-profit group (Friends of Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter), and infrastructure provided by the Board of County Commissioners. In 2024, the program resulted in sterilization of 151 dogs and cats at no cost to the pet owner. Over the past 2 years we have been able to spay/neuter over 300 pets. The majority of the pets we serviced would not have been able to receive surgery without the help of this program.

**Project Description:**

The year 2024 marked our second full year of the LLKAS Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County program. We have sterilized over 300 pets as part of this program since its inception in January 2023. We continue to use the outreach materials and population targeting techniques we implemented in 2023. For 2024, we added two additional zip codes to our program service area based on an overwhelming need in those areas. With the 2024 program, we were able to serve the areas that contribute to over 95% of our annual shelter intake. In 2024 we also welcomed the addition of a new part-time veterinarian. She was able to help us continue to serve the community while our full time veterinarian was out on maternity leave.

**Summary of Approach:**

By the time we completed our first year of the program (2023), word was out and the surgery schedule now books out months in advance. Our Animal Control Officers still promote the program to citizens with intact pets when they are out on calls. We also still register a good percentage of stray animals for the program at time of reclaim.

**Accomplishments:**

Over the past 2 years, our free spay/neuter program has sterilized 307 pets (134 cats and 173 dogs). If we say that 50% of those pets either gave birth to a litter or contributed to the birth of a litter, with average litter size of 4 puppies/kittens - this program has prevented AT LEAST 600 unwanted pets within the past 2 years. That represents almost 50% of our annual shelter intake.



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM**



**Lessons Learned:**

Two years into the program, we are gaining more insight about owners of cats vs. dogs. We have found that dog owners - in general - call ahead and the dog slots on our schedule fill up far - even months - in advance. The cat surgery slots, on the other hand, get booked much closer to the date of surgery. We have also had several cats this year where the owner registers a mother cat and we end up sterilizing her kittens as well - because she had already had a litter. One of our goals from 2023, going into 2024, was to increase our percentage of cats that register for the program. Towards the close of 2023, we started converting cat slots into dog slots on the schedule because the demand for dog surgery outweighed cats. For 2024, we ramped up outreach to cat owners in order to get more cats registered for the program and this year we did not have to convert any of our cat slots to accommodate dogs.

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