



# Don't Pay to Spay /Caroline MDA Spay Neuter Grant Fund

Project #

25-10003

County: Caroline County

Number of Cats Spayed: 62

Number of Dogs Spayed: 34

Number of Cats Neutered: 75

Number of Dogs Neutered: 30

Amount Received: \$22,125

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0

## Project Synopsis:

The Don't Pay to Spay program is a low cost spay and neuter program for families in Caroline County who are considered low income or on government assistance.



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Spay and Neuter Grants Program



## **Project Description:**

The Don't Pay to Spay program offers free spay or neuter to families in need in Caroline County. The purpose of the project is to assist those who cannot afford to spay or neuter their pets on their own. This leads to healthier pets and less unexpected litters.

## **Summary of Approach:**

We partner with an offsite spay/neuter clinic to offer a certain number of surgeries to the public each week. Members of the public can apply to be a part of this program and must submit proof of qualifications. In order to qualify, a client must be considered low income or be on some form of government assistance. Once scheduled, the client brings their pet to the shelter the morning of surgery and we transport the pets to the clinic. We also transport the pets back and clients are able to pick up at our location.

## **Accomplishments:**

We were able to help 201 animals from our county receive spay or neuter. 161 of those also received a rabies vaccination. Being able to offer this service to our county is the overall accomplishment. We have a relatively poor county and without the existence of this program, a lot of families would not be able to get their animals spayed, neutered, and vaccinated.

## Lessons Learned:

We had a leadership transfer in the middle of the program this year. It set us up for some unexpected challenges. We had spent very little of our grant money in the first half of the year which was something being managed by the previous leadership. However, once we discovered the situation, we were able to rally and make sure these funds were used for the families who very much needed the assistance. We learned how best to schedule those the qualify versus those who do not and how to get our message out to the community.

## For More Information Contact:

Stephanie Flower

## Organization Name and Address:

407 W. Belle St.

Ridgely, Maryland 21660

**Phone:** 410-820-1600

**Email:** [executive.director@carolinehumane.org](mailto:executive.director@carolinehumane.org)

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