



Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County

Project #

25-10101

County: Calvert County

Number of Cats Spayed: 27

Number of Dogs Spayed: 48

Number of Cats Neutered: 29

Number of Dogs Neutered: 46

Amount Received: \$11,040

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00

Project Synopsis:

The Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County program has been active since 2023 and has provided free spay/neuter services to over 450 pets. Surgery is performed at our in-house clinic at the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter—the only municipal shelter in Calvert County and also acts as the headquarters for Calvert County Animal Control. Being able to offer free spay/neuter and rabies vaccination services has proven to be one of the strongest prongs of our intake prevention strategy. The Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County program sets aside slots for 5 - 6 free spay/neuter procedures per week. The program is offered to Calvert County residents residing in the 9 zip codes that account for almost 95% of our county population and over 96% of annual shelter intake. Expected outcomes of continuing this program are expanding access to veterinary care for communities in need, keeping more animals in their homes, and ultimately an overall reduction in the unwanted pet population.



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Project Description:

2025 marked the third full year of the LLKAS Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County program. The program offers free spay, neuter, and rabies vaccination services to pets of Calvert County residents that meet certain zip code and household income requirements. Over the past 3 years we have been able to spay/neuter over 450 pets. We continued the use of our outreach materials and population targeting that we have been utilizing for the past 2 years. The zip code coverage of the program remained consistent with 2024. The majority of the pets we serviced would not have been able to receive surgery without the help of this program.

Summary of Approach:

Each week, we have 5-6 surgery appointments set aside from patients of the Free Spay/Neuter program. Surgery is performed at our shelter's in-house clinic. Patients are recruiting in a multitude of ways including when owners call looking for low cost services, when they call thinking they may need to surrender, via Animal Control, and during our monthly free rabies clinics. News of our program also spreads via word of mouth in the community such that our schedule books out months in advance (for dogs).

Accomplishments:

Over the past 3 years, our free spay/neuter program has sterilized 457 pets. If we estimate 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 900 unwanted pets within the past 3 years. That represents over 50% of our annual shelter intake.

Lessons Learned:

For the third year in the row, the bookings for dog surgeries outpaces cats by 2-3 fold. In 2025, we were able to slightly improve our ratio of cats to dogs by doing heavy active recruiting for the program on Animal Control calls and during our monthly Free Rabies Clinics. Our Animal Control division has also helped cat owners get spay/neuter surgery for their indoor/outdoor cats by offering help with trapping and transportation.

For More Information Contact:

Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County

Organization Name and Address:

175 Main Street – Courthouse

Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

Phone: 410-535-7387 x 8013

Email: jacqueline.hathaway@calvertcountymd.gov

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Spay and Neuter Grants Program

