



# A Targeted Spay/Neuter Project for Companion Dogs in the Park Heights Neighborhood of Baltimore

Project # 15-039

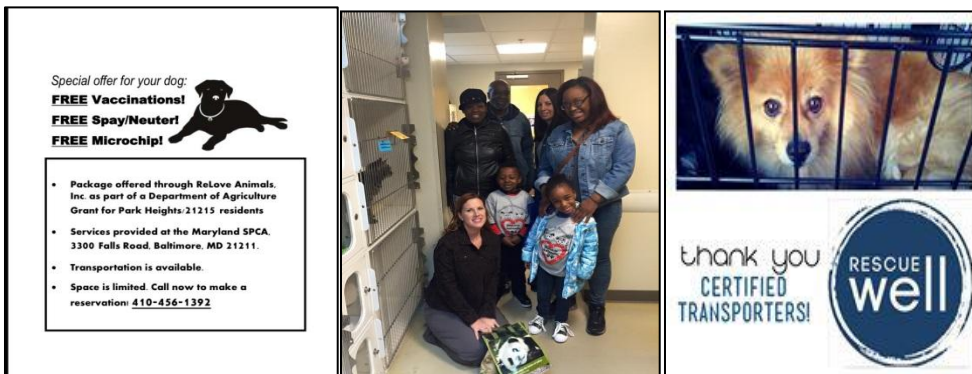
County: Baltimore City

Number of Cats Spayed:	none	Number of Dogs Spayed:	66
Number of Cats Neutered:	none	Number of Dogs Neutered:	52

Amount Received: 12,859.14	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): .10
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## Project Synopsis:

ReLove's mission is to stem the flow of unwanted animals into the shelters and rescues. Some of our main efforts to support that, is Owner Resources and Spay & Neutering. This project was put in place to help owners- who are otherwise good pet owners, get the resources they need to take care of their pet and to help the overpopulation problem subside. Having spent a good deal of time in Park Heights, we chose that area first, we later expanded the project into about a dozen zip codes, all with histories of high surrender rates.



## Project Description:

The idea of the project was to be able to fund the services we were already supplying to the communities we were working with. Almost every owner that we need to help, has a pet that isn't spayed or neutered. This is one of the first things we do as a matter of protocol. We didn't intend on having to look for people in need as much, because we were encountering them in our existing work. Having had a TNR project in West Baltimore, we were aware of how many dogs also needed to be fixed. This was designed to target that problem.

## Summary of Approach:

We were already working with the community and were funding Spay & Neutering from general donations. We saw this grant as a way to assist our efforts. We did go out into the community handing out flyers with information on the grant, and contact information to make appointments. We handed out the same flyers in classrooms throughout the city. On a few occasions we partnered with other organizations who encountered people needing the resources in our covered areas. We spread flyers on social media and through email. We engaged other animal welfare efforts in the area, to offer the funding for anyone they found in need.

All appointments went through Christine Sandberg with the Rescue Well program under ReLove. She trained volunteers to transport, and had a strict transport protocol including wiping the animal with a clean rag so that we had it's scent. Double security on dogs anytime they are outside, and other security measures. The



transport team has aFB page that has the "pot" of volunteers on it- so everytime an appointment is made, the volunteers can quickly and easily figure out who can handle the transport.

A protocol was also established with Ashley at MDSPCA in the beginning of the project, for when appointments where made, how they were handled, paperwork, billing etc. A transport protocol with the shelter was also established.

**Accomplishments:**

We spayed and neutered 118 dogs belonging to owners that would have not otherwise had the resouces to fix their pet. As we know, the people who end up paying for this in the end-is taxpayers running a shelter, and of course the animals who die needlessly and end up in the wrong hands to be abused. Together, we have prevented approximately a few hundred to a few thousand dogs (just in the first year after being fixed- and the number keeps growing after) with just our little project. As a community, and in consideration of all the larger projects being funded by this grant in Maryland right now..This is huge!

We are proud to have been on the team that help pass this piece of legislation. To be a recipient of the funding was especially nice.

**Lessons Learned:**

We started working with many people in other areas that needed resources, and realized that we needed to have a broader reach. Once we opened our area up, it really kicked the project into overdrive ..as far as response. We also did not take into account that the surgery center we chose would also be getting grant money, and would have their own extra surgeries taking up clinic time. This, in addition to clinic closings due to inclement weather and owners not keeping appointments ...we went over our year goal. In hindsight shouldn't have been so adventageous with our numbers.Thank you for this opportunity!

**Attachments:**

Hard copies of surgery records will be mailed to Jane Mallory. Spreadsheet attached for MDSPCA surgeries.

**For More Information Contact:**

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