



# Fix Meow

Project #  
19-410

County: Washington

Number of Cats Spayed:	45	Number of Dogs Spayed:	26
Number of Cats Neutered:	49	Number of Dogs Neutered:	18
Amount Received: \$8,595.75		Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA):	0

### Project Synopsis:

Fixmeow is a targeted feline spay/neuter program administered through the Humane Society of Washington County's Veterinary Center that focuses on low income communities in Washington County, MD. It was expanded to include both dogs and cats.




**FixMeow**  
FREE SPAY / NEUTER PROGRAM FOR CATS

HUMANE SOCIETY of Washington County  
CHANGING Maryland for the Better

For residents of the  
21740, 21742, 21722, 21723, 21795, 21782, 21713  
zip codes  
March 18, 2019  
First come, first served

Generously funded by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Applies to spay, neuter and rabies vaccinations of owned cats in the 21740, 21742, 21722, 21723, 21795, 21782, and 21713 zip codes, until funding has been exhausted.

### Project Description:

Fixmeow involves the surgical neutering and spaying of owned cats residing in the 21740 zip code, and to a limited extent, 21722, 21795, and 21783. Owners qualify if their total income is \$50,000 or less a year.

### Summary of Approach:

HSWC announced on social media (Facebook) that spay/neuter funds were available on a limited basis thanks to a generous grant from the MD Department of Agriculture. When responding to spay/neuter assistance requests from the public, staff was also instructed to notify callers of the funds. The funds allowed for free spay/neuter surgeries for owned cats in the zip codes listed above. Within days, we had a waiting list that far exceeded funds available. We worked from that list to schedule surgery days. Clients were screened for eligibility during the initial phone call, and eligibility was confirmed with proof of income the day of surgery.

In addition, we administered rabies vaccinations to every cat who was due/overdue. We applied \$50 of the funding to 50 vaccinations, but we absorbed the cost of all the others.

### Accomplishments:

Thanks to this grant from the MD Department of Agriculture, we have prevented the birth of thousands of unwanted kittens in Washington County. Throughout the year, surgeries have also given our veterinary staff new opportunities to interact with individuals who were unaware of the other resources we have available to assist pet owners. Specifically, they learned about our pet food bank and low cost Wellness Clinics that can help them care for their pets in the future should the need arise



**Lessons Learned:**

We learned that we need to be more realistic about our actual costs once we launch our public low cost spay/neuter days. We underestimated costs when applying for this grant but now have a better sense of how to proceed.

We also learned that an advertising budget isn't needed. Facebook posts are our best form of communication and receive the best response.

Finally, we learned that we needed to implement a client management database to better manage information and forms when we open to the public. We were operating within our shelter database system, and learned in the end that it was not a good fit.

Please note: We do not take photos during public spay/neuter days or wellness clinics because of photo liability. We only take and share photos when a liability release form has been signed, and we did not feel comfortable asking for permission in this situation.

**Attachments:**

Animal List Spreadsheet

**For More Information Contact:****Name:**

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

