



Take a Pawz - Fix Your Dawgz

Project #
19-413

County: Frederick

Number of Cats Spayed:	0	Number of Dogs Spayed:	90
Number of Cats Neutered:	0	Number of Dogs Neutered:	115
Amount Received: \$21,120.00		Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA):	0

Project Synopsis:

Frederick County Humane Society received a grant to provide alteration for dogs in 3 zip codes in Frederick County to help reduce intake and euthanazia numbers at the local animal shelter. In partnership with the State, Prospect Veterinary Clinic, and Happy Hubz, FCHS was able to coordinate free spay/neuter services for 205 dogs and rabies shots for 54 dogs whose owners fell within a specific income range.



Project Description:

In partnership with the State of Maryland Department of Agriculture, Prospect Veterinary Clinic and Happy Hubz, Frederick County Humane Society (FCHS) provided 205 dog alternations and 54 rabies shots from November, 2018 through January 2020. 90 free spays and 115 free neuters for low-income pet owners in areas suggested by Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC), with hopes of more rapidly lowering the number of dogs surrendered to the shelter and possibly euthanized.

Numbers from FCAC (the only public shelter in Frederick County) support the assumptions made: Their dog intake was 1036 in 2018 and 882 in 2019. Additionally, they put 209 dogs to sleep in 2018 and only 151 in 2019. Frederick County Animal Control is doing a terrific job working with their partners to ensure less animals are euthanized each year, and we are proud to be one of those partners.

FCHS provided administration of the grant, verifying applicants' addresses and income, and providing a voucher to be presented to Prospect Veterinary Clinic. Happy Hubz provided advertisement, promotion, and rabies vaccines for the program. They spent \$432 for the rabies shots provided. Prospect Veterinary Clinic scheduled and provided alteration surgeries at a greatly discounted cost with no additional fees for the surgeries. Both Prospect Vet and Happy Hubz were terrific partners, working together to provide this much needed service to our residents.



Outreach was supposed to be extensively provided by Happy Hubz, but we found that we did most of the outreach for this project. Outreach is an area we realize we felt short, and we are making a plan to ensure the SNIP program is better advertised this year.

Frederick County Humane Society provides affordable services, resources, and programs to help pet owners keep their pets healthy, happy, and in life-long homes. We also advocate for animal welfare in the community. We provide three different free or low cost spay/neuter programs, as we realize these programs are crucial in saving animals lives. We also provide programs for elderly pet owners, senior pets, emergency assistance, well care assistance and a program to help animals belonging to members of the military. FCHS provides a pet food bank for low income pet owners.

Summary of Approach:

Closely working with the county animal shelter, FCHS chose 3 zip codes where we felt free spay/neuter surgeries would help lower intake at Animal Control. A local vet had come to us to see if he could partner to provide free or low cost spay/neuter surgeries, and we worked closely with him to set up the program. Happy Hubz was brought in to provide free rabies shots for dogs that didn't have their shots up to date when they were brought in for surgery.

FCHS provided administration and oversight of the program while Frederick Vet Clinic performed the surgeries and gave the rabies shots. FCHS, Happy Hubz, The Maryland State Department of Agriculture, Frederick County Animal Control and Frederick Vet Clinic provided marketing for the program.

Accomplishments:

Two hundred and five dogs were altered with this program and 54 dogs received rabies shots. Intake and euthanasia numbers at the local shelter were both lowered, and our partnerships in the community are expanding and flourishing (partly because of this program). People who used the program are now more aware of other programs provided by FCHS and we are better able to help residents keep their pets in their homes.

Lessons Learned:

- Marketing is key. This program was well received but slow to start.
- We tried to do too much in a year. MD Department of Agriculture judged the number of surgeries that could be performed better than we did. One vet can only do a limited number of surgeries.
- People who get free alterations are more likely than others not to show up for their appointments. We were excited with the number of vouchers we gave out, but at least 1/4 of people who received vouchers either never set up an appointment or didn't show up for the appointment they set up. Once we knew this was an issue, we were very careful in providing vouchers to those who would actually use them.
- Cross-checked record keeping is crucial. We thought we had a great system, but found out at the end that we had paid out more surgeries than we had in our original reports. By going back and comparing Quickbooks, the Excel spreadsheet and our vouchers, we are sure of the number of surgeries provided. This year, we will cross-check surgeries performed and billed each month so it doesn't take a massive amount of time at the end to ensure proper numbers.

Attachments:

Final List of Animals Served

For More Information Contact:

Name:

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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM

