



Spay Neuter Midshore Year 5

Project #
20-509

County: Project serves Talbot And Dorchester Counties

Number of Cats Spayed:	DC:96 TC:58	Number of Dogs Spayed:	DC:26 TC: 27
Number of Cats Neutered:	DC:89 TC: 49	Number of Dogs Neutered:	DC:22 TC:30

Amount Received: \$26,550.00	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00
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Project Synopsis:

Spay/Neuter Midshore is a program which provides low and no cost spay/neuter surgeries and vaccines to qualifying residents of Talbot and Dorchester Counties in Maryland. The Maryland Department of Agriculture grant assists in funding surgeries for residents which qualify for no-cost services.



SPAY NEUTER MIDSHORE



Thanks to a generous grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture and gifts from private donors, Talbot Humane is able to offer low or no-cost spay and neuter services to residents of Talbot and Dorchester Counties.



Making a Humane Community, Together!

For more information on this or any of our programs, please contact us today! (410)822-0107
info@talbothumane.org 7894 Ocean Gateway PO BOX 1143 Easton,MD



Project Description:

Spay Neuter Midshore serves residents of Talbot and Dorchester Counties in MD with spay/neuter surgeries and core vaccines at no cost to the pet owner. The grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture currently funds approximately 40% of the full program, allowing Talbot Humane to continue to extend our reach of services. Talbot Humane has provided spay/neuter services to the public in some fashion since 2003.

Summary of Approach:



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As we have been providing some form of subsidized surgeries for the last 17 years, Spay/Neuter Midshore has allowed our services to reach exponentially more residents by providing more free services and extending our services into Dorchester county. Through the sharing of this program by other agencies in the 2 counties residents are learning about the program. We specifically advertise in areas where the target population may regularly shop or visit, we use social media, and continue to share on our weekly radio spot.

While we were unable to be out and about in the community in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent shutdowns our program still provided some 700+ public surgeries and more than 450 shelter pet surgeries.

Our Spay/Neuter Coordinator is engaged with consumers from start to finish- application to surgery completion. This relationship ensures clinics stay full each week and allows us to use time and resources in an efficient manner.

Accomplishments:

The Maryland Department of Agriculture funded 397 surgeries before the end of the 3rd Quarter. The program as a whole served some 700+ surgeries by the end of 2020 with 60% funded by gifts from private donors. All of this during a time of great uncertainty and limited volume at clinic due to specialized requirements for Maryland veterinarians, we certainly consider 2020 a success.

A breakdown of our service area is as follows:

- Dorchester County surgeries: 63%
- Talbot County surgeries: 37%

We provided free or low cost microchipping to approximately 70% of the animals who went through Spay/Neuter Midshore.

Approximately 45 animals received additional treatments or procedures as a direct result of participating in Spay/Neuter Midshore. From tooth extractions, infection management to mass removals, these animals are now healthier and surely happier due to receiving proper veterinary care which they most likely would not have received if they had not been examined and treated at clinic.

Lessons Learned:

As we shared in our 3Q update, when we look at the number of animals completed vs goal for the specified funding, we see the one area of variable is in the dog costs. When we submit for the grant we do an average cost but cannot account for more large breed dogs or more small breed dogs. While our goal was 420 animals with the granted funds, we saw many more larger breed dogs coming through our program and thus increasing the cost. Going forward to ensure we are reaching the most pets with our MDA funding, Talbot Humane plans to subsidize the costs over \$100 for surgeries.

While all applicants are encouraged to contact our office directly, we still had lag time with obtaining some consumer information when it was sent to other organizations. This of course is not something we have control over, but, we are sure to make the message clear to the community that our organization is the vendor for Spay/Neuter Midshore. Thus allowing our S/N Coordinator to triage all surgery requests as well ensure we are capturing and serving the most at risk pets in as timely a manner as possible.

We also struggle with the numbers from Dorchester County. While history and the continued requests for assistance tells us the number of animals living in low income households, the number of underserved residents, and the number of animals potentially suffering from the lack of care and services in the area is high; the structure of local government and the lack of an open admission shelter leaves us more or less assessing need based on our direct contact with residents. We plan to continue to serve this area as long as we have residents expressing a need for assistance.



Finally, as the need for services in our community continue to rise and the demand on our local vets continues to increase we have found our needs as a shelter and a provider are also increasing exponentially. We are currently looking outside of the box and investigating the prospect of the purchase and management of a mobile unit to be used to serve the community and local shelters in their needs for s/n, and minor health needs of animals.

Attachments:

SN MIDSHORE 2020 FINAL xl

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