



Free Spay/Neuter for Prince George's County Pets

Project #

21-636

County: Prince George's County

Number of Cats Spayed: 102

Number of Dogs Spayed: 71

Number of Cats Neutered: 112

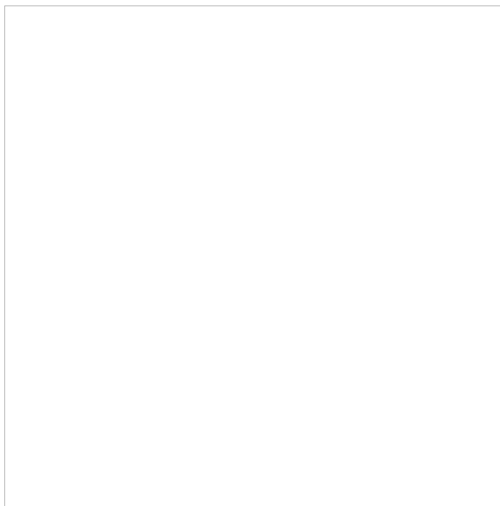
Number of Dogs Neutered: 93

Amount Received: \$29,880.00

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

Project Synopsis:

The SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's County Inc. (PGSPCA) is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the lives of PG County animals and the people who care about them. Reducing pet overpopulation is a big part of our mission, and in the last 20 years, we have altered almost 26,000 animals. Many obstacles deter well-meaning pet owners from sterilizing their pets, and with the help of grantors and donors, cost is one barrier that we can eliminate. Under this project we provide free spay/neuter services for the pets of qualifying PG County residents.



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Project Description:

Having established the first low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Prince George's County 20 years ago, the PGSPCA continues to serve clients throughout the DC metro area, altering pets and feral cats alike at some of the lowest prices in the region. Under this project, Free Spay/Neuter of Prince George's County Pets, we focus on Prince George's County residents only, providing hundreds of free spay/neuter surgeries to those who qualify.

Summary of Approach:

Through our low-cost shot clinics, website, social media, and other public outreach, we advertise the availability of this free service and field hundreds of requests every month. Volunteers screen the applicants to determine eligibility. For those who qualify, we schedule their pets for surgery at our Forestville clinic; we refer the ineligible applicants to other providers. Using contract veterinarians and volunteer staff, we sterilize pets at our facility at least two weekends a month.

Accomplishments:

Following the major scheduling disruptions of the pandemic in 2020, we've successfully accelerated our clinic operations this year to catch up on a backlog of needed surgeries. We haven't performed this many surgeries since the clinic was open full-time 15 years ago. We expended all our grant money in the first three quarters of the year, but have used donor funds to continue offering free surgeries in the 4th quarter.



Lessons Learned:

Like the rest of the veterinary community, we've had to strengthen our cleaning protocols and handling procedures to keep our staff and customers safe. We're also constantly tweaking our processes to streamline our screening and scheduling, reduce no-shows, and prevent veterinary and volunteer staff burnout. We've also worked hard to improve our post-surgical instructions and client education.

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