



Lifesaver Spay/Neuter Program

Project #

23-8007

County: Allegany County, Garrett County

Number of Cats Spayed: 136

Number of Dogs Spayed: 55

Number of Cats Neutered: 91

Number of Dogs Neutered: 45

Amount Received: \$29,095

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0

Project Synopsis:

Once again, we experienced that there was a larger need for spays versus neuters. We also ran through the funds extremely fast this year meaning there must have been a bigger need for low income assistance in our area. We were grateful to be able to provide this program to our local community again this year and help reduce the population of unwanted litters of kittens/puppies.



Installation of the 2023 North State officers was held at the Jan. 18 meeting and, standing, from left: Eugene Carter, president; Mike O'Brien, vice president; Joe Stines, treasurer; Lisa Carter, secretary; Krista Pyatt, reporter; and Melissa



Maryland Federation of Republican Women President Sharon Carrick traveled to the Western V Club, President Don to replace a 40-year-old President Lillian Smith, Vice President Don Harnett, Secretary Lisa Pyatt, and Treasurer Lisa Pyatt. Assistant Treasurer Lisa Pyatt was not available for the picture. At the meeting that followed, the club adopted its annual budget and outlined the program and projects for 2023. The club meets the third Wednesday of every month. Any Republican interested in membership is invited to attend. More information is available from President Carrick at 201-601-6644.

HART for Animals given grant

From Wolf Reports
An accident — HART for Animals was awarded a grant by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) as part of their Spay and Neuter Program designed to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs euthanized in shelters across the state.

This is the eighth year in which HART has been awarded the grant and to date has provided 2,000 no-cost spay/neuter surgeries to low-income Maryland residents in Garrett and Allegany Counties.

This year's grant will enable HART's Lifesaver program to perform 50 dog spays and neuters each. Beneficiaries who meet the income-eligibility requirements for Lifesaver are one of the following:

- Those who are on Medicaid
- Those who are on Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Those who are on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Those who are on Food Stamps
- Those who are on Maryland's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Those who are on Maryland's Child Tax Credit (CTC)
- Those who are on Maryland's State Tax Credit (STC)
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The grant money was used to fund the program and to provide the necessary supplies and materials for the surgeries. The grant also covered the cost of the anesthesia and the post-operative care for the animals.

The grant was awarded to HART by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) as part of their Spay and Neuter Program designed to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs euthanized in shelters across the state.

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Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Project Description:

The MD Spay Neuter grant enables HART's Bredel Veterinary Clinic to offer its Lifesaver No-Cost Spay/Neuter program to low-income residents' pets over 2023. The program covers a target area of mostly Garrett County and Allegany Counties. This program also includes rabies vaccinations when needed, plus pre-surgery exams, and pre and post-surgical analgesics. All surgeries are performed with the same standard of care for all patients. An application and proof of financial eligibility were required before surgery.

Summary of Approach:

At the end of 2022, HART notified the return of the Lifesaver no-cost program to our local shelter and humane society to inform residents as needed. In addition, a press release was sent out in February of 2023 to the target area. As clients call our front desk receptionists to schedule spay/neuter surgeries, they are made aware of the assistance programs we offer to see what they would qualify for. Many repeat clients will specifically ask about the no-cost Lifesaver program. If they qualified, they were then added to the schedule and surgery would be performed at the scheduled date by one of our veterinarians. We report our results once a quarter. In July we updated our guidelines to be in line with the current MD WIC guidelines. This year we ran through the funds very quickly. Once we get close to running out of available surgeries, we run reports to calculate how many more surgeries are remaining to be scheduled. Final grant reports are filed once completed.

Accomplishments:

The Bredel Veterinary Clinic at the HART Center provided 327 no-cost spay neuters to low-income residents throughout 2023 thanks to the MD Spay neuter grant. This program goes hand in hand with our mission of saving the lives of homeless animals in our community and puts a huge stop in the numbers of kittens and puppies being born and brought into our local shelters.



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Lessons Learned:

Thanks to the MD Spay Neuter grant, the HART For Animals Bredel Veterinary Clinic has provided the Lifesaver no-cost program to our low-income residents since 2014. We have completed over 3,600 surgeries since the program began. Each year we become more efficient and learn more. This year specifically we ran through the funds faster than we have ever experienced. What this teaches us is that there is a huge need in our community for assistance like this for low-income residents and their pets. All of this would not be possible without the MD Spay Neuter grant, and we as well as our clients are forever grateful. We hope to continue the program for years to come.

For More Information Contact:

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