



Don't Pay to Spay

Project #

23-8065

County: Caroline County

Number of Cats Spayed: 22

Number of Dogs Spayed: 17

Number of Cats Neutered: 23

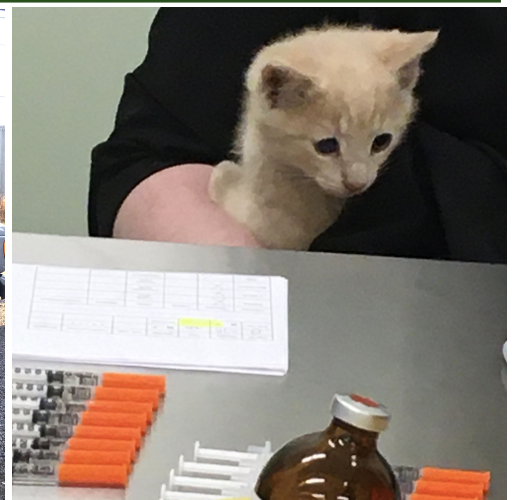
Number of Dogs Neutered: 11

Amount Received: \$7,300

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

Project Synopsis:

The original grant request was for money to cover 152 surgeries - however, based on the amount of money we were granted, 73 surgeries were completed. We went ahead and met our original dog surgery number of "24" and exceeded this by 4 surgeries. This left only enough money to cover 45 cat surgeries with the money awarded. We completed the grant the first week of October 2023, and could have used additional monies to continue doing more surgeries through November and December 2023.



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Project Description:

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Summary of Approach:

Potential participants would fill out an application for services and then would need to provide proof of income level to receive free spay/neuter. Once this was completed, we would schedule appointments, do reminder calls, transport the animals to and from the clinic and then give post-surgical recovery instructions and answer questions.

Accomplishments:

The grant was essentially completed in 9 months. Very few no shows, and in addition, we also did transport for animals that could pay for the surgeries, just didn't have the access either through 'couldn't drive', 'working during those hours', etc. We are working very hard to get our Caroline County cat population resolved - this is helping, our efforts with feral cats is helping and our intake numbers on cats decreased by 19% from 2022 to 2023. This has been helped quite a bit by a major Best Friends grant which we will NOT have in 2024, but we took the opportunity and worked consistently week after week to get cats 'done'.



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Lessons Learned:

Our system works fairly well, but we have to get better at asking pet owners to 'participate' in the process - what that means is asking them if they can help to fund ANY part of the surgery or vaccinations. Maybe they can't afford to pay \$65.00, but can they chip in \$10 to make the funding go further?, help more animals?. We need to try this. This does not mean turning anyone away if they can't, but increasing the numbers we can do. Another lesson learned: Why are people not spaying females prior to them getting pregnant? - we are still seeing far too much of this, and we need to try different strategies in delivering our messages about animal overpopulation. This year we have been more open with the number of animals in our care at the shelter, posting it at our door, and also on social media. Perhaps that will bring more recognition of the situation.

For More Information Contact:

Don't Pay to Spay

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