



# Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County

Project #

23-8101

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County: MD

Number of Cats Spayed: 33

Number of Dogs Spayed: 39

Number of Cats Neutered: 39

Number of Dogs Neutered: 45

Amount Received: \$11,008

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$1,470

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## Project Synopsis:

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter serves as the only municipal shelter in Calvert County and the headquarters for Calvert County Animal Control. The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County program sterilized 156 pets in 2023 at no cost to the pet owner. 2023 was the first year of the program. We were able to use our first year of MDA grant funding to spearhead this program.



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## **Project Description:**

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter just wrapped up our first year of the Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County program. 2023 was our very first grant cycle and we are happy to report that we sterilized 156 owned pets under the program. Our shelter opened in 2018 with the in-house veterinary clinic fully outfitted in the summer of 2022. Our organization was finally set up to start helping the community with free spay/neuter surgery through this program. In January of 2023, we started the program using the funding provided by the MDA grant. We developed outreach materials and targeted residents in need. Our 2023 program serviced residents in 7 of the 15 zip codes in Calvert County. These areas were chosen based on average median household income and the fact that these 7 zip codes accounted for over 85% of shelter animal intake.

## **Summary of Approach:**

To kick off the program, we started by offering free sterilization surgery to animals who were reclaimed strays, had involvement with Animal Control, or who came through our free rabies clinic. Once we developed an understanding of a manageable level of weekly surgeries, we opened registration up to all pet owners meeting the income and residency requirements.

## **Accomplishments:**

In 2023, we completed our first year of the Free Spay/Neuter for Pets of Calvert County program by sterilizing 72 cats and 84 dogs.



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## **Lessons Learned:**

We were surprised to learn that most of the animals registered to the program were dogs rather than cats. For this reason, after the completion of our first quarter, we ramped up outreach to cat owners in order to get more cats registered for the program. In the fourth quarter, recognizing that the demand for dog surgery still outweighed that for cats, we converted one of our cat openings to a small dog opening. We plan to continue this scheduling scheme into 2024.

## **For More Information Contact:**

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