



Talbot Humane's Project Pits

Project #
15-048

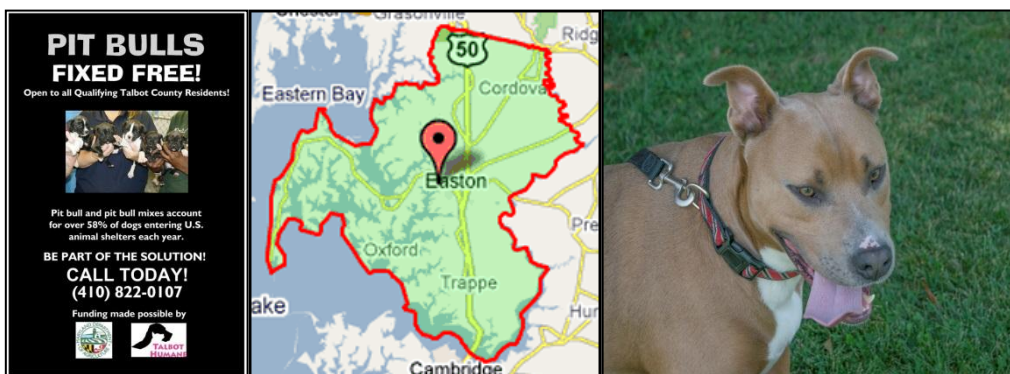
County: Talbot

Number of Cats Spayed:	NA	Number of Dogs Spayed:	40
Number of Cats Neutered:	NA	Number of Dogs Neutered:	48

Amount Received: \$9,180.00	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00
-----------------------------	--

Project Synopsis:

Project pits was created in an effort to lower the number of unwanted litters of pit bull and pit bull mixes in Talbot County Maryland.



Project Description:

Keeping with the mission of Talbot Humane and Talbot County Animal Control to provide low and no cost services to our residents, Project pits offered free spay/neuter services and core vaccines to residents of Talbot county who were owners of pit bull and pitbull mix dogs.

This program, active from January 2, 2015- April 7, 2016, was important to our community as we were seeing that many of these owners were less interested in having their pets altered, and more interested in breeding. The program allowed us to take the cost barrier away, and, in turn open the disussion to other benefits to having their dogs spayed or neutered.

Our goal was to alter approximately 100 pit bull and pit bull mixes, while at the same time reducing the number of these dogs coming into our shelter. This year we saw only 2 litters of pit bull or pit bull mix puppies enter our care. We also were able to have dogs from residents who have been resistant to this service in the past, have their dogs altered, thus ending the breeding cycle for those animals, and ending the cycle of their puppies ending up in our shelter or surrounding shelters.

Summary of Approach:

This project was well received from the beginning. We used posters and cards located strategically around the county, as well as our social media outlets, weekly radio spots and our website to promote the program. We continued with this process throughout 2015. We used every community event we attended as an opportunity to promote this program as well, including visits to Talbot County schools.



Accomplishments:

We found the following to be significant accomplishments to the Project Pits Program.

1. We were able to reduce the number of pit bull puppies and adults entering our care by 10% from prior 2 years.
2. This opportunity opened discussions with residents who have been classically anti-spay/neuter and successfully obtained compliance from several of these residents. Several residents who had been breeding their dogs for profit took advantage of this program. Thus, affording their pets a healthier future, less puppies into the community and opening a positive dialogue.
3. This program opened our eyes to further needs of our residents and residents in surrounding areas. We were contacted weekly, if not daily from residents asking for surgeries for their non-pitbull dogs- specifically from neighboring Dorchester County, MD. The need for expanding this program beyond breed specific and the boundaries of our county was clear very early. Some may say this is a lesson learned as well. We saw this as an opportunity to expand and serve the community better in this year by opening the opportunity to residents under a certain income bracket with companion dogs and cats, not breed specific.

Lessons Learned:

We learned quickly that more than simply providing free services to many who own these dogs was needed. While we reached a number of owners with the message on responsible pet ownership and the benefits of spay/neuter, we still have a population of owners who did not take advantage of this opportunity. This was disappointing as several of these residents are owners who have been in our animal control system for failed compliance in other areas, or, have brought litters of puppies and adult dogs to us in the past.

The ability to alter 88 pitbull type dogs free of charge to the owners is significant. This number does not account for the other dog and cat owners we were able to reach by opening the conversation about spay/neuter services with these residents. The total number of surgeries completed for low income residents in 2015 increased by 150% over the number completed in 2014. Repeated education on why providing responsible care is important for companion animals to the owners continues to be an imperative piece of providing such services. We are striving to continue to reach these pet owners through our current program, Spay/Neuter Midshore and have been wildly successful thus far in 2016.

Attachments:

MD grant Spreadsheet ProjectPits Final: Surgeries and cost breakdown
Project pits poster post card receipts

For More Information Contact:

Name:

Patricia Crankshaw, Executive Director

Organization Name and Address:

Talbot Humane

PO BOx 1143 7894 Ocean Gateway Easton, MD 21601

410-822-0107

Email: patty@talbothumane.org



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM

