



Free Spay/Neuter at HSCC

Project #
16-103

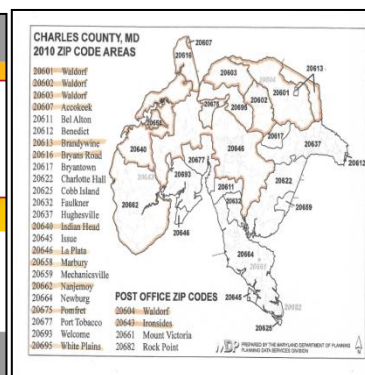
County: Charles County

Number of Cats Spayed:	114	Number of Dogs Spayed:	103
Number of Cats Neutered:	88	Number of Dogs Neutered:	73

Amount Received: \$31,097.10	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00
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Project Synopsis:

This Project targeted low-income pet owners in the Charles County Zipcodes of Waldorf (20601, 20602, 20603, 206040), Accokeek (20607), Brandywine (20613), Bryans Road (20616), Indian Head (20640), LaPlata (20646), Marbury (20658), Nanjemoy (20662), Pomfret (20675), White Plains (20695), and Ironsides (20643) and proposed to provide no-cost surgeries to 190 cats and 160 dogs.



Project Description:

The Humane Society of Charles County is an open intake non-profit animal shelter located in Waldorf Maryland. We have been in operation since 1978 and have run a high volume spay and neuter since 1998. This is our second year being a grant recipient from the Maryland Department of Agriculture for low income families in specific zip codes in Charles County. This project provided free spay/neuter surgeries to residents living in Waldorf, Accokeek, Brandywine, Bryans Road, Indian Head, LaPlata, Marbury, Nanjemoy Pomfret, White Plains and Ironsides who made less than 80% of the median income of Charles County residents.

The project also had a training component that would help to increase the maximum daily capacity for surgeries provided by the veterinarian and clinic staff at the Humane Society of Charles County and help to incorporate industry standards in best practices for high volume spay/neuter clinics.

Summary of Approach:

At the beginning of the project we had a meeting to discuss advertising and project implementation with the project coordinator, business manager, clinic manager. In the first year we had road signs and flyers printed that contained the specific locations that qualified for the program. Since this year the program areas had been expanded upon we needed a new flyer. Any unused flyers could not be used because the information was no longer accurate. It is because of this that we decided to go with a generic flyer/sign that advertised the program but was more flexible for any changes that may occur during the program and could be used in subsequent years. Once the artwork was finalized and approved flyers and signs were ordered. Signs were placed along



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SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM



major highways and intersections throughout the target areas. Flyers were provided to animal control, the health department, our adoption event and fundraising event coordinators, and placed within the shelter. A newspaper ad that used similar artwork was run every other week for the entire year in the Maryland Independent.

Early in the year we began the process of scheduling the high volume spay and neuter training with the Humane Alliance located in North Carolina. Our original intent was to send our clinic manager, a veterinary assistant and our veterinarian to the training. Unfortunately due to the increased cost of the training from the time the application was submitted and the training was able to be scheduled we were only able to send the veterinarian and the clinic manager. The training was scheduled and attended in August 2016.

Throughout the year we have received hundreds of calls of people applying for grant assistance with spay/neuters. When a request comes in their information is gathered and provided every day to the grant coordinator. She contacts the inquirer and arranges for them to provide proof of income and then schedules their surgery date and provides a carbon copy of a voucher to the recipient for each animal. The Carbon copies are how we track our surgeries.

Accomplishments:

In the 2016 grant cycle we applied to perform 350 surgeries with Maryland Department of Agriculture funding. This included a proposed 100 cat spays, 90 cat neuters, 70 dog Spays and 90 dog neuters. We are very proud to report that we were able to do 378 surgeries with the grant funding.

The training that the veterinarian and clinic manager were able to attend as part of the program gave our clinic a huge boost. Our average surgery capacity increased from approximately 20 surgeries per day to approximately 35 surgeries per day.

Lastly the grant provided us with funding for a new Pulse Oximeter which allowed us to monitor more than one sedated animal at a time. This piece of equipment was acquired early in the program and was used throughout the year.

Lessons Learned:

One of the major things that we learned from doing the training was that it is a good idea to budget a little extra when planning for travel expenses and training expenses because of how often the prices for these types of expenses.

We would have liked to have had the high volume spay/neuter training through Humane Alliance completed earlier in the year so that we could use the methods learned for more of the project. We ran into several issues with employee availability and the availability of the training dates by Humane Alliance. This type of training needs to be planned and scheduled several months in advance. While we weren't able to do it until the end of the project the knowledge that was brought back will be used in our 2017 Maryland Department of Agriculture grant project and any future projects as well as for general clinic operations.

Some of the practices that we did not do before the training that we have now implemented are:

- Using a "beach" area to allow animals to wake up from surgery in a central location so they can be monitored more effectively and save time from having to go out of the way to check on recovering animals.
- We switched from oral post operation pain medications to a post operative injectable pain medication.
- We no longer require pre-operative blood work. Customers can now opt out of pre-operative bloodwork but we still reserve the right to deny service if the veterinarian feels that any animal is at risk of surgical complications.
- We now tattoo all animals that receive a spay/neuter surgery for a quick reference to see if an animal is already spay/neutered if the end up back in a shelter.

Attachments:



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SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM



Surgery List
Budget Final

All other expenditure receipts have been provided in quarterly reports.

For More Information Contact:

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