



## Eastside Spay & Neuter Program II

Project #  
FY18-305

County: Baltimore

Number of Cats Spayed:	417	Number of Dogs Spayed:	227
Number of Cats Neutered:	399	Number of Dogs Neutered:	241

Amount Received: \$53,462.24

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): 0

### Project Synopsis:

The Eastside Spay & Neuter Program (ESNP II) project was designed to provide local access to free spay/neuter services to low income zip codes on the East side of Baltimore County. These communities were identified as being areas for high intake of animals to the Baltimore County Animal Services (BCAS) open-admission shelter. The project goals of sterilizing 1,284 pet dogs and cats were set to be completed within 12 months however this project was met within a 5 month period demonstrating both the need for this program as well as the residents' willingness to participate. With about half of all shelter intake coming from the combined identified East side zip codes, the need for no cost spay/neuter programs is very apparent. Grant funding provided by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will ultimately work to decrease the number of animals brought in to the shelter from these areas.



### Project Description:

This project provided, free of charge, a complete wellness and spay/neuter package to 1,284 domestic dogs and cats in targeted low income communities on the East side of Baltimore County. Each pet received a full physical exam, sterilization procedure, plus core vaccines and deworming as needed based on any prior veterinary records. Each pet also received a permanent microchip with free registration and a Baltimore County pet license.

The goals of the ESNP II project were to decrease the number of unplanned litters, decrease the intake to BCAS and of course allow for a population of healthier, safer pets in these communities. With the anticipated decline in stray and surrendered pets from these areas, BCAS also hopes to appreciate lower euthanasia rates.

Baltimore County residents are currently eligible to have their pets spayed/neutered at one of three (3) surgical facilities operated by BCAS in Baldwin, Brooklyn, and Dundalk providing convenient access to all County residents. The community-based satellite spay/neuter clinics operate in some of the County's most



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concentrated populations of low income families with pets in an attempt to make getting to and from the facility as convenient as possible. For those residents without access to transportation, contracts have been established with two local taxi companies to provide no-cost transportation to and from the scheduled appointment for both pet and owner.

**Summary of Approach:**

BCAS developed flyers and online campaigns including social media to begin spreading the word about the availability of free spay/neuter services at the Dundalk location. BCAS partnered with local community organizations and businesses in the targeted, low-income communities. BCAS also partnered with other County agencies, such as the Fire Department, to go door-to-door distributing program information. Baltimore County Council members also continue to share BCAS information with their constituents.

The Spay/Neuter Customer Service Coordinator and other BCAS staff members visited communities and engaged with local organizations in an effort to share the benefits of spaying/neutering pets while soliciting their help in promoting the free ESNP program. The Coordinator assisted pet owners with the online scheduling platform and other administrative concerns.

**Accomplishments:**

Similar to the ESNP I grant, ESNP II finished far ahead of schedule, completing all 1,284 procedures within seven months. This program has developed a foot hold in the identified zip codes and the community response to the free spay/neuter services has been overwhelmingly positive. Word of mouth has become a great appointment generator in an area where these services are most needed.

**Lessons Learned:**

The east side of Baltimore County has been extremely receptive to the no cost spay/neuter program offered by BCAS in conjunction with MDA. This is extremely important as about half of all total incoming animals to the shelter come from the zip codes identified in the ESNP II project. For the second consecutive year, all surgical procedures for the entire grant cycle have been completed ahead of schedule. Surgical slots were reserved weeks to months in advance and BCAS feels it could have easily doubled the amount of procedures performed in this grant. For FY19, BCAS has increased the requested amount of procedures to be performed in ESNP III. BCAS is grateful to the MDA for providing this grant to our citizens most in need of these free spay/neuter services and for partnering with BCAS to help reduce overall intake and euthanasia numbers.

**Attachments:**

**For More Information Contact:**

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