



Free Spay and Neuter at HSCC

Project #
18-326

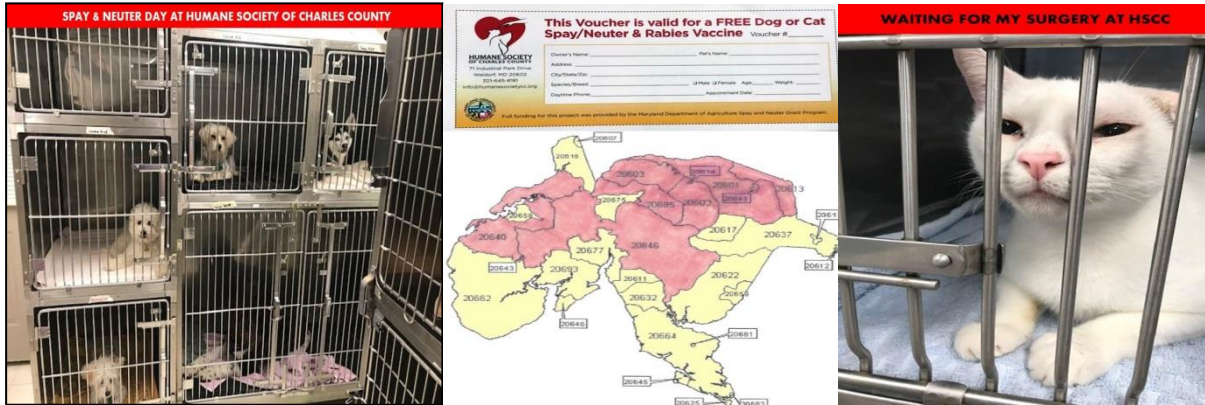
County: Charles

Number of Cats Spayed:	95	Number of Dogs Spayed:	86
Number of Cats Neutered:	88	Number of Dogs Neutered:	88

Amount Received: 25,122.50	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): 12.73
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Project Synopsis:

The Free Spay and Neuter Program md 18-326 provided surgeries to 357 cats and dogs and 262 rabies vaccines to pets owned by low income residents in 14 towns throughout Charles County. Each animal was also provided with a free rabies vaccine if they needed one. The owners provided proof of income eligibility to participate in the program and then scheduled their own appointments to spay/neuter their pets in our clinic.



Project Description:

The Humane Society of Charles County continued to offer free spay/neuter services for both cats and dogs to low income families in targeted zipcodes of northern Charles County, maintaining our current area of coverage based on our 2017 grant project. In 2015 we performed a similar campaign through a grant from the MDA that was initially focused on families with pets in Waldorf (20601, 20602, 20603) and Indian Head (20640) and was later expanded into Brandywine (20613), White Plains (20695), and LaPlata (20646). In 2016 this was further extended to low income families with pets in Accokeek (20607), Bryans Road (20616), Nanjemoy (20662), Marbury (20658), Pomfret (20675), and Ironsides (20643). In 2017 we expanded it once more to Newburg (20664), Cobb Island (20625), and Issue (20645). Our program targeted 350 owned animals to providing spay/neuter surgeries and rabies vaccines for each animal as needed. This grant offers families who struggle with daily necessities an opportunity to provide necessary medical treatments for their pets while simultaneously helping the county curb the overpopulation of pets that leads to unnecessary euthanasia due to a lack of homes willing to take them.

Summary of Approach:

The community was introduced to the project in previous years through our earlier grant cycles. The continued availability of the funding, coupled with expanded social media advertising and community outreach events spread the word that free spay and neuter services were available for pets. The process of evaluating



potential grant recipients was straightforward as the coordinator collected the pertinent information to determine their eligibility. Customers could submit their information via the shelter or contact the coordinator using information from the website. Customers were also able to schedule their own appointments convenient to their schedules. Our many outreach programs and community events provided ample opportunity to provide education to the community about responsible pet ownership which naturally leads to a conversation about spaying/neutering pets. Removing the cost barriers for this service along with providing much needed vaccinations greatly increases the likelihood that a family will continue to be responsible pet owners throughout the pet's life.

Accomplishments:

Over the course of the FY 18 Grant cycle we had 357 animals visit the clinic for spay and neuter surgeries along with rabies vaccines where needed. The 357 animals included 95 cat spays, 88 cat neuters, 86 dog spays and 88 dog neuters, along with 262 Rabies vaccines. Many of the animals would never have visited a vet without this grant so they are living healthier lives due to this program. During the program, animals were given the chance to live a healthier life, pet owners were introduced to responsible pet ownership concepts and provided with a means to provide this for their new family member. Our grant recipients also become the biggest advocates for this service and often refer family and friends to the clinic for this service as well.

Lessons Learned:

Lessons learned include a need for more controlled scheduling of appointments for the service to help improve the flow of the grant resources. As an enhancement in future grants the surgery scheduling could be expedited more efficiently and quickly if the control of scheduling was attached to the issuance of the voucher. Multiple recipients were no show appointments which wastes valuable clinic spaces on a limited schedule. We also struggled with our vet coverage but going forward have confirmed 3 days of surgery per week so can accommodate more animals. Finally, an adjustment to the weight limitations for dogs has allowed for increased surgery availability to community members we previously had to either turn down or wait several weeks to finally schedule a date for. Also, due to an error in our Grant Tracking software, the usage of the grant monies was not calculated correctly so we actually used up the grant money a bit earlier than previously thought. There were 26 surgeries that were not reflected correctly in the quarterly recaps that are listed on the final surgery recap attached.

Attachments:

Attached is the complete animal list along and surgery expenses for the FY 18-326 grant. The grant tracker has some adjustments that had to be made at the end of our grant usage period due to a glitch in our tracking software. Specifically: Quarter 1 (4.1.2018-6.30.2018) s/b +\$67.75; Quarter 2 (7.1.2018-9.30.2018) s/b +\$389.75; Quarter 3 (10.1.2018-12.31.2018) unchanged; Quarter 4 (1.1.2019-3.31.2019) s/b +\$1366.55; Quarter 5 (4.1.2019-6.30.2019) s/b +\$74.75. See notes for each month that was affected.

For More Information Contact:

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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM

