



The Maryland SPCA: Providing High-Quality Free Spay/Neuter Services for Low-Income Residents of Baltimore City

Project #
FY19-416

County: Baltimore City

Number of Cats Spayed:	399	Number of Dogs Spayed:	91
Number of Cats Neutered:	453	Number of Dogs Neutered:	73

Amount Received: \$45,956.00	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00
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Project Synopsis:

With support from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Maryland SPCA (MD SPCA) provided 1,016 free spay/neuter surgeries in 2019 for owned pets living in nine Baltimore City zip codes: 21201, 21202, 21205, 21213, 21215, 21216, 21217, 21218, and 21223. The Maryland SPCA continues to build on the success of our ongoing spay/neuter program, now entering its sixth year. It is the goal of this project to reduce the number of pets that enter our shelter, to keep pets in their homes, and to help create healthy communities.



Project Description:

The Maryland SPCA takes life-saving measures to give unwanted pets in our care every opportunity to thrive and find their forever home. We are proud of our 95% live-release rate for 2019 that demonstrates our commitment to this goal. The free spay and neuter program contributed substantially to the more than 6,900 surgeries performed in our Spay and Neuter Clinic in 2019 and remains one of our most sought out services.

In 2019, with support from the MDA, the MD SPCA provided free spay/neuter services to residents from nine Baltimore City zip codes: 21201, 21202, 21205 21213, 21215, 21216, 21217, 21218, and 21223.

Summary of Approach:

The MD SPCA has a proven track record of promoting our spay/neuter services in underserved neighborhoods. In 2019, we distributed flyers within targeted neighborhoods, mailed flyers to animal service providers in the immediate areas surrounding targeted zip codes, and promoted the program via email and social media. Feedback from clients supported this multi-pronged approach to promotion of the program.

We continue to strengthen and leverage our community partnerships. Charm City Companions (CCC) assists our clients by transporting their pets to and from our clinic, a vital resource for people with limited or no access to transportation. In addition, our staff canvasses neighborhoods with Annie Pruitt, bringing resources directly to residents, to include information about the benefits of spay/neuter. In the Spring and Fall of 2019, we participated in four large scale B-More Dog pop-up clinics, two of which were held in the Penn North and Park Heights



neighborhoods, which are located within our 2019 targeted zip codes. These events enabled our staff to provide information and resources to over 209 registered attendees and resulted in 12 spay/neuter surgeries covered under the 2019 MDA grant.

We seek out supplement funding each year to have a greater impact through our free spay/neuter program. At the start of 2019, the Petco Foundation awarded the MD SPCA a \$15,000 grant. We used \$7,500 to provide 160 free spay/neuter surgeries for owned dogs of qualifying residents living in the nine zip codes targeted under our MDA grant. We also received funding from Stand up for Pits, providing an additional 27 surgeries for owned dogs.

Accomplishments:

Last year, the MD SPCA spay and neuter clinic increased the number of overall surgeries by 490. We achieved this through expansion of effective and efficient community outreach programs, increased transports from sister shelters, and grants from institutional foundations. In June, we celebrated the completion of our 90,000th surgery, a huge milestone for our Spay and Neuter Clinic.

2019 was a pinnacle year for our organization as we celebrated 150 years of service for residents of Baltimore City and beyond. As we look ahead, our spay and neuter program plays a key part in our 2020 strategic goal of helping 20,000 pets and 25,000 people by the end of this year. Beginning in 2018, we have leveraged key partnerships within our community to help us reach this goal, bringing programs and services directly to people and their pets. As 2020 unfolds, we look forward to sharing with you the successes of our spay and neuter program partnership against this backdrop.

Lessons Learned:

The demand for free and low-cost spay and neuter surgeries consistently exceeds available funding, which is why the MD SPCA seeks supplemental funding to support the program. Due to time constraints on the grant received from the Petco Foundation, we were required to provide a report by August 2019, resulting in MDA funded surgeries being pushed back by almost two months. In order to provide all surgeries under our MDA agreement, the MD SPCA requested a program extension to January 31. We completed all surgeries by January 17. Going forward, any additional funding received will support owned pet surgeries for qualifying Baltimore City residents living in areas of high intake and euthanasia rates that are not covered under an MDA grant.

The MD SPCA focused our efforts in three zip codes where a large portion of residents were supported by MDA funding awarded to CCC. In our 2020 grant application, we worked with Annie to determine project scope so as not to duplicate efforts in any one zip code, allowing for greater impact of the program city-wide.

Attachments:

2019 Surgeries

For More Information Contact:

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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM

