



St. Mary's Spay Neuter Your Pet (SNYP)

Project #
19-431

County: St. Mary's

Number of Cats Spayed:	164	Number of Dogs Spayed:	84
Number of Cats Neutered:	103	Number of Dogs Neutered:	74

Amount Received: \$23,774.63	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00
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Project Synopsis:

This program targeted low income families in specific zip codes in St. Mary' County. The goal was to provide no cost spay/neuter surgeries to these families to reduce pet overpopulation as well as to reduce the number of unwanted/abandoned animals. We have also found that spay/neuter surgeries assisted in correcting behavioral issues that put animals at risk to abandonment.



Project Description:

St. Mary's Animal Welfare League performed this project during the calendar year 2019. We are a volunteer-staffed, non-profit operating in Southern Maryland. The project was designed to target areas of St. Mary's County where the population was most dense. Outreach efforts included local public events as well as including information about the program at our low cost vaccination clinics and our adoption events. The St. Mary's County Animal Control officers also helped to spread the word to pet owners in need. Shelter statistics are not tracked by County (our local shelter currently serves two counties, with each of the counties in the planning stages to build their own shelter) so we are not able to specifically identify an impact on the shelter intake.

Summary of Approach:

Outreach programs included providing flyers at our low-cost vaccination clinics (once a month, March through November); program information added to our website; FaceBook ads throughout the year; contacting local Animal Control to encourage them to send folks in need to us for help; flyers at most adoption events throughout the county; program flyers at our Cat Castle shelter which is open to the public every weekend; participation at local events throughout the year providing information about this program as well as our adoption programs; and working with local vets and clinics to make them aware of the help available through this program.

Accomplishments:



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM



We were able to provide 425 spay/neuter surgeries to community members who might otherwise have let their pets remain intact. We provided more surgeries to dogs than last year which is likely to be the result of our efforts with Animal Control. We developed numerous relationships with community activists and county employees which have made our outreach much more successful. While we cannot obtain county or zipcode level information from our local shelter, we believe we have helped to make a significant reduction in the number of unwanted pets in our area. We have also helped with placement of unwanted animals that we became aware of only as a result of this outreach.

Lessons Learned:

As the only source of spay/neuter assistance in St. Mary's County we have discovered that there are many more people looking for help of this sort than we would have expected. Most of the applicants also need other assistance with their animals and we have been able to put them in touch with other programs to help with food and other medical expenses. Some of our efforts are unsuccessful as a result of requiring proof of residency and need and we have had a small number of applicants attempt to provide altered residency documents. We have implemented additional training re appropriate proof of residency documentation. Volunteer challenges continue as we have had another turn over in our voucher volunteers. We also have an increasing volume of residents seeking assistance for community cats rather than pets. We will continue to investigate sources to assist with those requests.

Attachments:

Complete list of animals spayed or neutered under this program in 2019.

For More Information Contact:

Name:

Kathleen M. Werner, President St. Mary's Animal Welfare League

Organization Name and Address:

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