

Final Grant Progress Report

Submitted by Keith Burnham on Oct 6th, 2022 at 9:32 pm

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Final Grant Progress Report

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Spay and Neuter Grants Program

Contact Information

Project Title

Hope for Sunshine's Pet Friends

Project Type

Pet Focused Application

Project #

22-7049

Date of Report

Oct 6, 2022

Project Contact Name

Keith Burnham

Project Contact Telephone Number

410-796-7327

Project Contact Email

info@sunshinesfriends.org

Organization Name and Address

Organization Name

Sunshine's Friends Cats and Dogs Rescue

County

Anne Arundel

Address Line 1

7406 Belclare Ct.

Address Line 2

City	State	Zipcode
Jessup	Maryland	20794

Full Address

7406 Belclare Ct. Jessup Maryland 20794

Budget Expenditures

Total Grant Awarded

\$20,494.70

Total Amount Spent

\$20,494.70

Amount Remaining

\$0.00

Surgery Information

Number of Cats Spayed	Number of Cats Neutered
130	119

Number of Dogs Spayed	Number of Dogs Neutered
36	34

Total Surgeries Proposed	Total Surgeries Completed
318	319

Project Information

Project Synopsis

This project funded part of a multi-year effort to reduce the number of homeless and unwanted pet animals brought in to the Anne Arundel County and Howard County animal control facilities. This goal was accomplished through an aggressive, targeted campaign to spay/neuter pets owned by low-income individuals and families in Jessup and Maryland City as well as specific neighborhoods in Elkridge and Curtis Bay. We were funded to spay/neuter 249 pet cats and 69 pet dogs above and beyond our organization's regular pet-focused programs.

Upload Images



Additional Information

Project Description

Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue (www.sunshinesfriends.org) has been a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity since 2014 operating within 20 miles of our main location in Jessup, MD. The area is a mix of light industry, warehouses, and residential neighborhoods, and the area along the US Route 1 corridor and southern Baltimore beltway has a higher than average number of low-income residents who need help. This project, which ran from October 2021 to June 2022, managed to spay/neuter 249 pet cats and 70 pet dogs for low-income families within specific neighborhoods/zip codes in the area. As part of a multi-year project, we have steadily reduced the number of unwanted pets surrendered to local county animal shelters due to the inability to afford veterinary procedures. The project funded the cost of the spay/neuter surgeries and rabies vaccines for the pets. We supplied transportation when needed and covered vaccines and additional medical care if necessary to give the pet a good quality of life.

Summary of Approach

We start with advertising/outreach. We work with community associations, social service and local groups, speaking at meetings and going door-to-door with brochures. We post on social media and provide handouts to our partner vets and pet stores. We spread the word about spaying/neutering/vaccinating pets in general, and about our projects in particular. We used a two-prong approach, covering both pet and feral focused projects to maximize our effectiveness. Outreach ran continuously, even after we finished the MDA-funded projects early. We partnered with 6 spay/neuter vet clinics to who substantially discount their rates. Our organization also contributed costs of extra medical care, vaccines, and flea treatment for pet owners who cannot afford them. This increased our effectiveness and kept more pets with families and out of animal control facilities. We provided transportation to vets to about 75% of pet owners who do not have cars, work odd hours, or cannot take time off from work.

Accomplishments

In just 9 months of the planned year-long project, we managed to spay/neuter 249 pet cats and 70 pet dogs above and beyond the procedures and other emergency surgeries we provide through our regular in-house programs. We prevented numerous potential pet surrenders due to unwanted litters of puppies/kittens or medical care that people could not afford. We also used our funds to cover the extra costs for testing, vaccinations, microchipping, and flea treatments for pets spayed/neutered under the project. Some of the people in the targetted areas told us that if not for our efforts they would have had to consider surrendering their pet to the county animal control facility where it would possibly end up euthanised.

Lessons Learned

In the early part of the project, there were still limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so we had to decrease our in-person, door-to-door canvassing. To counteract that, we increased our virtual and social network outreach activities. Our veterinarian partners reduced their available apointments, so we had to put extra effort into coordinating and scheduling pet visits. By using multiple vet practices and maintaining our close relationships with them, we avoided the typical 3 to 4 month wait for appointments, instead keeping standing weekly appointments for multiple pets.

Attachments (proof of surgeries performed)



[SFCDR_22-7049-Final_Dog-list.pdf \(0.23 MB\)](#)



[SFCDR_22-7049-Final_Cat-list.pdf \(0.34 MB\)](#)

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