



Free Spay/Neuter at HSCC

Project #
17-219

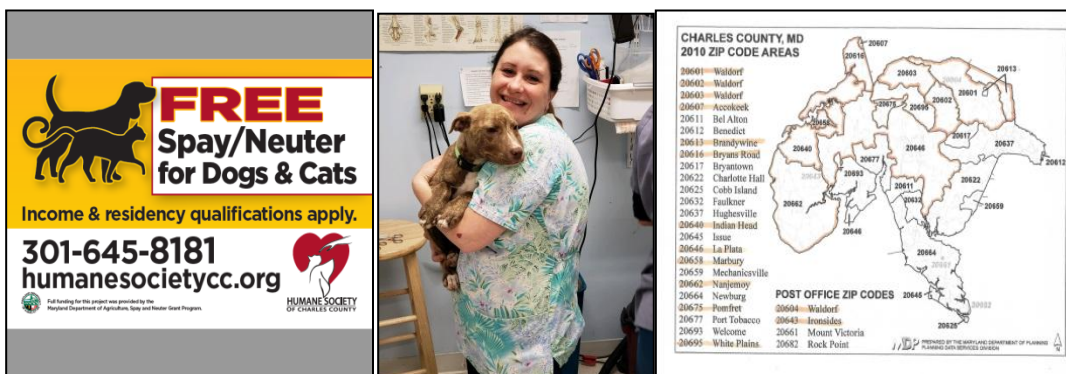
County: Charles

Number of Cats Spayed:	62	Number of Dogs Spayed:	105
Number of Cats Neutered:	72	Number of Dogs Neutered:	90

Amount Received: \$23,797.50	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00
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Project Synopsis:

The Humane Society of Charles County offered free Spay/Neuter and Rabies vaccinations for pets of low income families in select zipcodes in Charles County Maryland.



Project Description:

The Humane Society of Charles County continued our program from 2015 and 2016 to offer free spay/neuter services for both cats and dogs to low income families in certain zipcodes of Charles County, Waldorf (20601, 20602, 20603, 20604), Indian Head (20640), Brandywine(20613), White Plains(20695), LaPlata(20646), Accokeek (20607), Bryans Road(20616), Nanjemoy(20662), Marybury(20658), Pomfret(20675), and Ironsides(20643), Newburg(20664), Cobb Island(20625), and Issue(20645).

Summary of Approach:

To start we advertise for this program on our Website, Facebook, at our many events, through email blasts, handing out flyers and leaving flyers at local businesses. We also team up with Charles County Animal Control who refer pet owners that they deal with of our programs.

When people contact our shelter inquiring about the program their information is given to the program coordinator (a volunteer board member) who contacts them and gets all of the proof of income and residency that is required. They are then given a voucher and schedule an appointment with our clinic. We currently use Clinic HQ software which is amazing for setting up grant programs and deducting the expense of the surgeries and vaccines from a pool of money that is set up. For any new clinics I would highly recommend using this or a similar program. For proof of income and residency clients can provide a wide variety of documentation to show their income level, some items include WIC Checks, Social Security Info, Tax Forms, etc. Towards the end of this year we have begun accepting proof of income on the date of surgery to qualify participants. This helps to streamline the process. We do keep the pre-approval available for the majority of clients to help speed up the intake and checkout process on surgery days.

Accomplishments:



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We are so glad that we were able to perform almost the exact amount of surgeries that we were requesting. We did 329 of our proposed 330 surgeries. This included 105 Dog Spays, 90 Dog Neuteres, 62 Cat Spays, and 72 Cat Neuters. We also administered 216 rabies vaccines.

One of the most amazing things that we were able to do with the approval of the Department of Agriculture was help a man who was homeless. He brought his dog in and got it neutered but because of the dogs activity level he ended up pulling his stitches and swelled up to a frightening level. With the help of the Department of Agriculture we were able to send him to get the emergency care he needed and even held him at our facility for a couple days to monitor his incision and make sure that he would have a safe place to recover.

Lessons Learned:

This year was full of complications and obstacles with the greatest one being Pan Leukopenia. While we did not ever have a public animal get sick there was an outbreak in our shelter in the early summer from stray kittens coming in off the street with the virus. This caused us to have a huge decline in surgeries scheduled through our clinic for several months. At the end of the year we were not even 2/3 of the way through our projected surgeries. Shortly after that we lost our director and clinic manager which set us back even farther while we prepped and trained new staff to fill the holes.

The new manager, Jessica Madewell has done amazing at promoting the program and streamlining the qualification process. She is largely responsible for increasing our response rate coming into the extension periods of the program. Our "quarterly" productivity tripled when we began allowing people to qualify on the day of their surgeries.

Only about 2/3 of the persons required a rabies vaccination so those extra funds helped to make up for the fact that we did significantly more dog spay and neuter surgeries than we had anticipated. Keeping the surgery budget somewhat fluid really helps the program to run smoothly.

Attachments:

Attached is the full list of expenses for the program. This includes the full surgery list and the cost of printing for flyers as well as the emergency medical expense for the dog Deisel that was described above. Also attached is the grant budget.

For More Information Contact:

Name:

Nathaniel Boan, Executive Director

Organization Name and Address:

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