



Baltimore Humane Society Spay/Neuter Program 2019

Project #
19-415

County: Baltimore, Carroll, and Harford Counties

Number of Cats Spayed:	121	Number of Dogs Spayed:	78
Number of Cats Neutered:	101	Number of Dogs Neutered:	93
Amount Received: \$29,300.00		Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0	

Project Synopsis:

Using contract veterinarians and targeting specific zip codes in low income areas, we were able to spay/neuter 360 animals owned by low income pet owners. The following 5 zip codes were targeted in Baltimore County: 21136 (Reisterstown), 21117 (Owings Mills), 21133 (Randallstown), 21244 (Windsor Mill), and 21208 (Pikesville). The following 4 zip codes were targeted in Carroll County : 21157 (Westminster), 21158 (Westminster), 21787 (Taneytown), and 21048 (Finksburg). The following 4 zip codes were targeted in Harford County: 21078 (Havre De Grace), 21040 (Edgewood), 21085 (Joppatowne), and 21001 (Aberdeen). We achieved our goal of 360 animals and actually surpassed it for a total of 393 animals owned by low income clients in the designated zip codes spayed/neutered in 2019.



Project Description:

The Baltimore Humane Society (BHS) was established in 1927. Its mission is to provide a temporary home, safe refuge and care for unwanted and homeless animals. The Baltimore Humane Society (BHS) is proposing a one year project to reduce the number of homeless and unwanted animals turned into the Baltimore County and Carroll County Control facilities and other shelters in those Maryland counties. This goal will be accomplished through an aggressive, targeted campaign to spay/neuter animals belonging to individuals and families in six targeted zip codes in Baltimore County and five targeted zip codes in Carroll County that have high owner surrender rates and the majority of the residents are on some form of public assistance. Statistically, the higher the poverty rate in a given area, the less likely those pets will be spayed or neutered. Zip codes chosen were 21136 (Reisterstown), 21117 (Owings Mills), 21133 (Randallstown), 21244 (Windsor Mill), and 21208 (Pikesville), 21157 (Westminster), 21158 (Westminster), 21787 (Taneytown), 21048 (Finksburg), 21078 (Havre De Grace), 21040 (Edgewood), 21085 (Joppatowne), and 21001 (Aberdeen). These areas are designated low-income based upon data generated from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2012-2016) . This grant would fund the actual cost of the spay/neuter surgeries (and rabies vaccine) for the pets. We plan to spay/neuter 180 cats and 180 dogs throughout 2019 using funds from this grant.



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SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM



Summary of Approach:

The program was launched in January 2019 with the distribution of program flyers to all program partners (RescueWell, Carroll Co. Animal Control and Meals on Wheels) and identified BHS volunteers distributed flyers to the local churches, community centers, tractor supply stores, pet stores, etc. in the identified zip codes. We utilized the Fix at Four marketing materials from the Best Friend Network in English and Spanish, as well as flyers created by BHS promoting the free spay neuter services. We planned for a quarterly re-distribution of materials to the targeted areas using our volunteer database to area churches, farm stores, pet stores, etc.

Spay and Neuter program flyers were distributed at all Baltimore Humane Society marketing/community events attended by Baltimore Humane Staff throughout the year, including our Pet adoption events, DogFest, and other community events.

Surgeries were performed as we got requests so the procedures were performed Monday-Friday over the length of the grant. We normally perform 8-15 surgeries per day, so grant recipients who qualified through this program were able to take any of those appointment slots with no restrictions. Grant participants were required to provide proof of residence in the targeted zip codes and proof that they were unable to pay for the services, while grant participant pets had to meet our regular surgery guidelines of size, age, breed in order to qualify for the assistance through this program. Qualifications for being low-income included a head of household income of \$25,000 or less or \$42,000 or less with dependents listed on their tax forms. Proof of receiving Federal or State assistance also qualified them for the grant.

Dr. Zink oversaw the procedures while our surgeons Dr. Anna Dechtiaruk, Dr. Alison Mullins and Dr. Lindsay Morseberger shared the responsibility of performing the surgeries. They have performed over 2,000+ spay and neuters here at the shelter over the past year alone. We used only licensed veterinarians that have completed 4 years of veterinary education at an accredited vet school. Within that training, spay/neuter procedures are taught through both lecture and clinical experience. Typically, our veterinarians have been practicing veterinary medicine for a minimum of three years before they would be considered candidates for the job at BHS. Most of our veterinarians have been practicing for well over 10 years in the industry. We also ensured the animals' optimal health by making all necessary vaccines available to the clients at the conclusion of the spay/neuter surgery. We diligently worked to keep material costs low as we use supplies that offer discounted materials to non-profit spay/neuter and shelter programs. We continually evaluated our material costs to determine the most effective and safe materials to use.

Accomplishments:

We were able to spay/neuter 393 animals owned by low income pet owners in the designated zip codes. We surpassed our goal of 360.

Lessons Learned:

Next year we would like to increase our surgery goal to better serve the community. Also, we did not build into the program the costs associated with longer, more complicated surgeries such as pyometras, cryptorchids, dog spays in heat, pregnant spays, and animals with infections.. These surgeries take longer, costing us more than the original contracted costs. In the future, we may need to re-negotiate the re-imbursed expense of the spays and neuters to cover these unexpected expenses.

Attachments:

See attached excel spreadsheet listing all surgeries performed for this grant.

For More Information Contact:**Name:**

Dr. Mary Zink, Veterinary Medical Director

Organization Name and Address:

Baltimore Humane Society



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