



SPCA of Anne Arundel County

Project #
20-543

County: Anne Arundel County

Number of Cats Spayed:	15	Number of Dogs Spayed:	24
Number of Cats Neutered:	22	Number of Dogs Neutered:	14

Amount Received: \$7,790.00	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$1,630.00
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Project Synopsis:

The SPCA of Anne Arundel County offered free spay and neuter services and rabies vaccinations to financially disadvantaged dog and cat owners. We were able to surgically alter 37 cats and 38 dogs.



Project Description:

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, the SPCA of Anne Arundel County has been offering compassionate care to abandoned animals as they await adoption into loving homes since 1920. While the shelter had opened its on site spay and neuter clinic periodically to the public's animals, almost ten years ago we began offering affordable spay and neuter services to the community on a regular basis. Through this process, we found that a great many pet owners strongly desire spay or neuter services for their pets but find the cost prohibitive putting pets at risk of unintentional breeding. Every unwanted litter is a tragedy and one that can be avoided through spaying and neutering pets.

Our main objective was to reach local financially disadvantaged pet owners and allow them the opportunity to alter their pets, thus slowing the number of unwanted animals entering shelters and animal control agencies. We waived the fees to spay or neuter the dogs and cats of local residents with financial difficulties, thus removing one of the barriers to altering their pets.

Summary of Approach:

In the past, we have offered incentives in the form of discounted or free spay and neuter services with a positive reponse from our target community. We had every expectation of making a similar impact in this venture, offering both spay/neuter surgery as well as rabies vaccinations at no cost to qualifying clients. In the beginning of the project, we limited our program participants to one zip code in Anne Arundel County. However, we found a number of clients outside of said zip code qualified due to their income levels, but were not within the focus area. The Maryland Department of Agriculture allowed us to expand the service to more residents throughout the county, enabling us to provide services to more qualifying families. We used paper flyers to advertise this program, shared it with the members of our Pet Food Bank (which provides food to



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members of our target population) as well as posting frequently on our social media. While we were unable to reach as many dogs and cats as we would have liked, we are proud to report that we have spayed or neutered 37 cats and 38 dogs.

Accomplishments:

We are honored to have been part of such an important initiative that allowed us to reach so many animals in need. By altering 37 cats and 38 dogs, countless unwanted litters have been prevented. In many cases, these animals had not had any previous veterinary care and we were able to share a number of affordable local resources so that their owners could continue to ensure the good health of their pets. Our original hope was to reach 74 cats and 70 dogs in the 20711 zip code; however, due to difficulties in scheduling these pets, the Department of Agriculture authorized expansion of eligibility into surrounding areas which resulted in greater success.

Lessons Learned:

We found that predicting the area of greatest need and interest is more difficult than we had initially believed. It was very fortunate that we were permitted to expand our area of service by the Department of Agriculture. We also discovered that reliable transportation is unavailable for many interested participants in the program. In the future, allotting volunteer time to assist with transporting animals for their surgeries will decrease the number of missed surgery slots.

Attachments:

- 2019 MD Dept of Agriculture Grant Flyer
- 2019 MD Dept of Agriculture Grant Updated Flyer (Change of Scope)
- 2019 MD Dept of Agriculture Grant Change of Scope
- 2019 MD Dept of Agriculture Grant Statistics (Excel)

For More Information Contact:

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