



# Don't Pay to Spay 2017

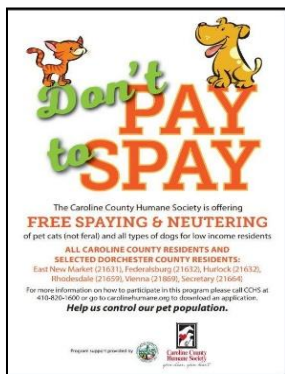
Project #  
17-221

County: Caroline and Dorchester

Number of Cats Spayed:	334	Number of Dogs Spayed:	92
Number of Cats Neutered:	194	Number of Dogs Neutered:	65
Amount Received: \$61,070.00		Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA):	-0-

### Project Synopsis:

Don't Pay to Spay provides free spay and neuter surgeries as well as rabies vaccinations to cats and dogs belonging to the low income citizens of Caroline County and five zip codes in Dorchester County.



### Project Description:

The purpose of Don't Pay to Spay program is to provide free spay and neuter surgeries and rabies vaccinations when appropriate to cats and dogs belonging to the citizens of Caroline County and five towns in Dorchester Count. The five towns in Dorchester County include East New Market, Secretary, Hurlock, Rhodesdale, and Vienna.

The goal of Don't Pay to Spay is to reduce the number of homeless animals entering the Caroline County Humane Society and Dorchester County animal shelters by providing a service that may otherwise not be available to the animals of low income families. Not only will free spay and neuter surgeries reduce the number of animals entering shelters, they will also reduce the number of animals being euthanized each year.

### Summary of Approach:

The staff and volunteers of the Caroline County Humane Society played a large part in spreading the word about the Don't Pay to Spay Program. Volunteers took Don't Pay to Spay information cards to outreach activities. The staff shared the information and mailed or handed out applications to people turning in animals, calling for information about spay and neuter services, and during other events such as rabies clinics.

Information about and the application for the Don't Pay to Spay program were also shared electronically. The information about the program was shared with followers of the Caroline County Humane Society Facebook page and on the shelter's website. Along with the information on the website, there is an application that can be downloaded and mailed to Caroline County Humane Society.



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**Accomplishments:**

1. The Don't Pay to Spay program provided spay and neuter surgeries and rabies vaccinations to a total of 685 animals. This number consisted of 528 cats and 157 dogs. Although we fell short of our goal of 750 animals, we can still consider 2017/2018 a success. We achieved 91% of our goal. The difference between our target number of procedures and what we achieved was a result of an increase in spay surgeries we performed from our original target number. As part of our goal, we proposed to provide 300 cat spays and 75 dog spays. However, during the course of the project, demand for spay surgeries exceeded these numbers. As per MDA's recommendation to avoid turning away qualified pet owners for the sake of adhering too strictly to the original target number for spays, we increased the number of spays (a procedure that with a higher cost) and decreased the number of neuters, and provided as many surgeries as the budget would support.
2. In spite of an unexpected reorganization of the Caroline County Humane Society, our staff and volunteers have managed to continue providing free spay and neuter surgeries to the animals of low income families.
3. The Don't Pay to Spay program became much more efficient throughout the past year.

**Lessons Learned:**

1. There is still a great need for free and low-cost spay and neuter surgeries throughout Caroline and Dorchester Counties.
2. Distance is a definite barrier to care for pet owners that may already be struggling financially.
3. Program goals should not be set higher than our organization's ability to meet them.
4. Participation by Dorchester County residents was minimal.
5. Post offices are an excellent outreach location. As Don't Pay to Spay information was displayed in post offices, there was an obvious increase in participation.

**Attachments:**

- Don't Pay to Spay information card
- Caroline County Humane Society Van and Shelter
- Don't Pay to Spay cats waiting to go home

**For More Information Contact:****Name:**

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