



Baltimore Humane Society Spay/Neuter Program 2018

Project #
18-307

County: Baltimore and Carroll Counties

Number of Cats Spayed:	94	Number of Dogs Spayed:	61
Number of Cats Neutered:	82	Number of Dogs Neutered:	83

Amount Received: \$25,000	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): 0
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Project Synopsis:

Using contract veterinarians and targeting specific zip codes in low income areas, we were able to spay/neuter 320 animals owned by low income pet owners. The following 6 zip codes were targeted in Baltimore County: 21136 (Reisterstown), 21117 (Owings Mills), 21133 (Randallstown), 21163 (Woodstock), 21244 (Windsor Mill), and 21208 (Pikesville). The following 5 zip codes were targeted in Carroll County : 21155 (Upperco), 21157 (Westminster), 21158 (Westminster), 21787 (Taneytown), and 21757 (Keymar). Our original goal was 300 animals and we surpassed that goal in 6.5 months.



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), 21163 (Woodstock), 21244 (Windsor Mill), and 21208 (Pikesville), 21155 (Upperco), 21157 (Westminster), 21158 (Westminster), 21787 (Taneytown), and 21757 (Keymar). These areas are designated low-income based upon data generated from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2011-2015) . This grant would fund the actual cost of the spay/neuter surgeries (and rabies vaccine) for the pets. We plan to spay/neuter 150 cats and 150 dogs throughout 2018 using funds from this grant.



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Summary of Approach:

The program will launch in January 2018 with the distribution of program flyers to all program partners (RescueWell, Carroll Co. Animal Control and Meals on Wheels) and identified BHS volunteers will begin to distribute flyers to the local churches, community centers, tractor supply stores, pet stores, etc. in the identified zip codes. We will be utilizing 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 will plan for a quarterly re-distribution of materials to the targeted areas using our volunteer database to area churches, farm stores, pet stores, etc.

BHS will use Money Mailer direct mail ads to reach our targeted population in Baltimore and Carroll Counties. Distribution is available in three of our targeted zip codes in Carroll County allowing us to reach 30,000 homes directly and four of our targeted zip codes in Baltimore County allowing us to reach 40,000 homes directly (each zone covers 10,000 homes). We will distribute to the three zones in Carroll County in the 1st and 3rd quarters of 2018 and in Baltimore County in the four zones in the 2nd quarter. Our focus to expand our reach into Carroll County is the reason we have decided to target those zone two times during the project period (if approved).

Spay and Neuter program flyers will be 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 will be done as we get requests so the procedures will be performed Monday-Friday over the length of the grant. We normally perform 8-15 surgeries per day, so grant recipients who qualify through this program will be able to take any of those appointment slots with no restrictions. Grant participants will be required to provide proof of residence in the targeted zip codes and be unable to pay for the services, while grant participant pets must meet our regular surgery guidelines of size, age, breed in order to qualify for the assistance through this program.

Dr. Zink will oversee the procedures while our surgeons Dr. Sarah Trembley, Dr. Alison Mullins and Dr. Lindsay Morseberger will share 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 use 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 ensure the animals' optimal health by making all necessary vaccines available to the clients at the conclusion of the spay/neuter surgery. We diligently work to keep material costs low as we use supplies that offer discounted materials to non-profit spay/neuter and shelter programs. We continually evaluate our material costs to determine the most effective and safe materials to use.

Accomplishments:

We were able to spay/neuter 320 animals owned by low income pet owners in the designated zip codes. We achieved our goal of 300 in 6.5 months.

Lessons Learned:

Next year we would like to increase our surgery goal to serve the community for the full 12 months. 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 accounted for 3% of the surgeries and these surgeries take longer, costing us more than the original contracted costs. In the future, we should consider tracking these additional costs and including them in the grant's total expenses or building a small cushion into the initial request to cover these unexpected expenses.



Attachments:

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

For More Information Contact:

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