



SNIP - Spay Neuter Intact Pets

Project #
20-513

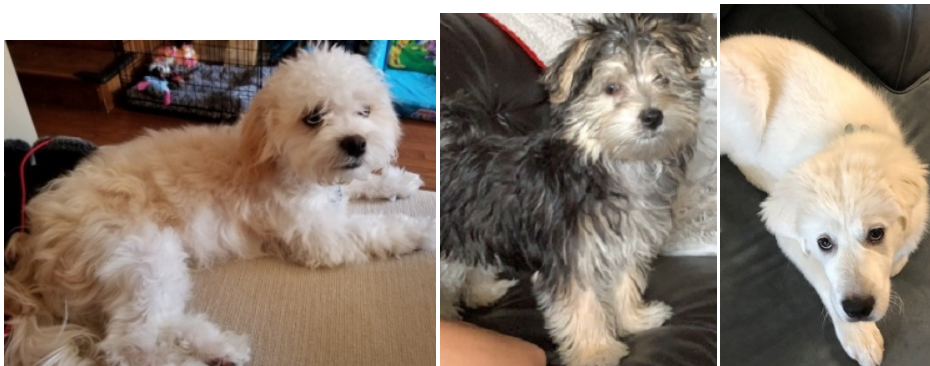
County: Frederick

Number of Cats Spayed:	68	Number of Dogs Spayed:	77
Number of Cats Neutered:	66	Number of Dogs Neutered:	73

Amount Received: \$24,900	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0
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Project Synopsis:

Frederick County Humane Society received a grant to provide alteration for dogs in 4 zip codes in Frederick County to help reduce intake and euthanazia numbers at the local animal shelter. In partnership with the State, Prospect Veterinary Clinic, and Happy Hubz, FCHS was able to coordinate free spay/neuter services for 150 dogs and 134 cats whose owners fell within a specific income range. We also provided 121 rabies shots.



Project Description:

Frederick County Humane Society (FCHS) is a nonprofit located in Frederick County that provides numerous programs and services to expand affordable services, resources and programs to help responsible pet owners kept their pets healthy, happy, and in life-long homes. This grant from Maryland Department of Agriculture helped us reach many animals whose owners otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford to have them altered.

In partnership with the State of Maryland Department of Agriculture, Prospect Veterinary Clinic and Happy Hubz, Frederick County Humane Society (FCHS) provided 150 dog alternations and 134 cat alterations along with 121 rabies shots from November, 2019 through March, 2021. Dog surgeries didn't start until January, 2020, as we were working to finish our first partnership with the State (Take a Pawz, Fix Your Dawgs).

Summary of Approach:

Working closely with the only animal shelter in Frederick (FCAC), FCHS chose the zip codes where we felt free spay/neuter surgeries would help lower intake at Animal Control. WE also worked closely with Prospect Veterinary Clinic, where Dr. Hawley is committed to providing reduced cost spay/neuter services. Happy Hubz nonprofit signed up to provide free rabies shots for dogs that didn't have their shots up to date when they were brought in for surgery. Unfortunately, Happy Hubz chose to remove itself from this program about halfway



through...which left Prospect and FCHS the final cost of providing rabies shots to the remaining animals that needed it.

Outreach for this program was provided by FCHS, Prospect Vet, Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC) and by Happy Hubz nonprofit. We contacted local vet clinics to let them know the program would be expanding to include cats; and shared information on social media and the local newspaper. Our Director also provided interviews with local radio shows when requested. With COVID, we had no public events like in normal years, but we were still able to get the word out very well.

This program covered the City of Frederick, Walkersville, and the surrounding area. These are the most densely populated parts of Frederick County, so we felt these were the best areas for year 2 of this State-funded program.

FCHS provided administration and oversight of the program while Frederick Vet Clinic performed the surgeries and gave the rabies shots. FCHS, Happy Hubz, The Maryland State Department of Agriculture, Frederick County Animal Control and Frederick Vet Clinic provided marketing for the program.

Accomplishments:

150 dogs and 134 cats were altered with this program and 121 animals received rabies shots. Intake and euthanasia numbers at the local shelter were both lowered, and our partnerships in the community are expanding and flourishing (partly because of this program). People who used the program are now more aware of other programs provided by FCHS and we are better able to help residents keep their pets in their homes. This program has helped FCHS provide a very important service during a rough year, and has expanded our ability to reach those in need.

As shown by the amazing reduction of animal intake and euthanasia at Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC), this program was successful in helping reduce those numbers. Cat intake was lowered from 1999 to 849, and cat euthanasia from 1251 to 434 (well over 50% in both cases). Not quite as drastically, dog intake decreased from 882 to 547, and dog euthanasia from 151 to 100. These numbers include animals surrendered by families because of serious behavioral issues and those who couldn't afford a vet to put their pet to sleep.

FCHS works well with FCAC, and we partner with them in a number of our programs.

Lessons Learned:

Don't try to expand a program during a pandemic? Seriously, we learned so many lessons during our first partnership with the State that this ran very well other than the few months we were shut down because of the pandemic.

We've learned that Frederick County Animal Control and Prospect Veterinary Clinic are the best partners for this program.

Attachments:

Final List of Animals Served

For More Information Contact:

Name:

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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM**

