



Fixmeow: Free Spay/Neuter for 350 Cats

Project #
18-301

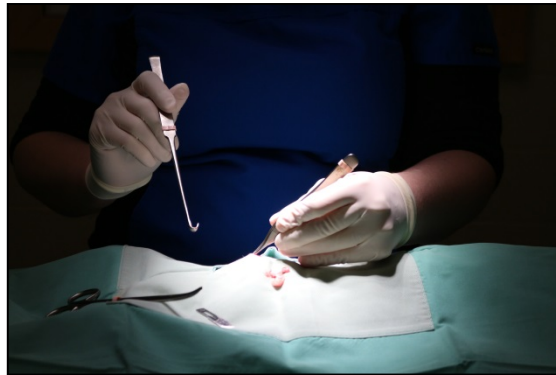
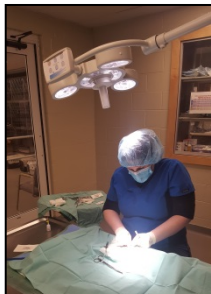
County: Washington County

Number of Cats Spayed:	188	Number of Dogs Spayed:	0
Number of Cats Neutered:	136	Number of Dogs Neutered:	0

Amount Received: \$12,850	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0
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Project Synopsis:

Fixmeow is a targeted feline spay/neuter program administered through the Humane Society of Washington County's Veterinary Center that focuses on low income communities in Washington County, MD.



Project Description:

Fixmeow involves the surgical neutering and spaying of owned cats residing in the 21740 zip code, and to a limited extent, 21722, 21795, and 21783. Owners qualify if their total income is \$50,000 or less a year.

Summary of Approach:

HSWC announced on social media (Facebook) that spay/neuter funds were available on a limited basis thanks to a generous grant from the MD Department of Agriculture. When responding to spay/neuter assistance requests from the public, staff was also instructed to notify callers of the funds. The funds allowed for free spay/neuter surgeries for owned cats in the zip codes listed above. Within days, we had a waiting list that far exceeded funds available. We worked from that list to schedule surgery days. Clients were screened for eligibility during the initial phone call, and eligibility was confirmed with proof of income the day of surgery.

In addition, we administered rabies vaccinations to every cat who was due/overdue. We applied \$50 of the funding to 50 vaccinations, but we absorbed the cost of all the others.

Accomplishments:

Thanks to this grant from the MD Department of Agriculture, we have prevented the birth of thousands of unwanted kittens in Washington County. Throughout the year, surgeries have also given our veterinary staff new opportunities to interact with individuals who were unaware of the other resources we have available to



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SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM



assist pet owners. Specifically, they learned about our pet food bank and low cost Wellness Clinics that can help them care for their pets in the future should the need arise.

Lessons Learned:

We have learned that there is considerable need for a spay/neuter assistance program that includes dogs within our community. As a result, we requested that dogs be included in our FY 2019 grant agreement. We also learned that we must overbook appointment slots because of the large number of "no shows" we were experiencing. One day alone, we had 12 scheduled cats not come, even after confirming surgeries a day or two prior.

We also learned that we grossly underestimated the number of female cats that would be presented on surgery days. As a result, we spayed more cats than expected and depleted funds before hitting our target goal.

Finally, we learned that we must be more realistic with what it truly costs us to perform spay/neuter surgeries. After almost two years spaying/neutering onsite, we now have a better grasp of what that really is. The median cost of a neuter surgery at our Veterinary Center is \$44.63 and the median cost of a spay surgery is \$77.37.

Attachments:

Animal list: "Final Grant Report_18-301-Animal List"

For More Information Contact:

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