



St. Mary's Spay Neuter Your Pet (SNYP)

Project #
18-337

County: St. Mary's

Number of Cats Spayed:	198	Number of Dogs Spayed:	63
Number of Cats Neutered:	152	Number of Dogs Neutered:	91

Amount Received: \$27,897.50

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$31.14

Project Synopsis:

This program targeted low income families in specific zip codes in St. Mary' County. The goal was to provide no cost spay/neuter surgeries to these families to reduce pet overpopulation as well as to reduce the number of unwanted/abandoned animals.



Project Description:

St. Mary's Animal Welfare League performed this project during the calendar year 2018. We are a volunteer-staffed, non-profit operating in Southern Maryland. The project was designed to target areas of St. Mary's County where the population was most dense. Outreach efforts included many public events as well as including information about the program at our low cost vaccination clinics. Shelter statistics are not tracked by County (our local shelter until recently served three counties) so we are not able to specifically identify an impact on the shelter intake.

Summary of Approach:

Outreach programs included providing flyers at our low-cost vaccination clinics (once a month, March through November); 1 radio interview; FaceBook ads throughout the year; contacting local Animal Control to encourage them to send folks in need to us for help; flyers at most adoption events throughout the county; program flyers at our Cat Castle shelter which is open to the public every weekend; participation at local events throughout the year providing information about this program as well as our adoption programs; and working with local vets and clinics to make them aware of the help available through this program.

Accomplishments:

We were able to provide 504 spay/neuter surgeries to community members who might otherwise have let their pets remain intact. We developed numerous relationships with community activists and county employees which have made our outreach much more successful. While we cannot obtain county or zipcode level information from our local shelter, we believe we have helped to make a significant reduction in the number of unwanted pets in our area. We have also helped with placement of unwanted animals that we became



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SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM



aware of only as a result of this outreach.

Lessons Learned:

Our volunteers found this to be a challenging project. We have clearly learned that increasing the number of volunteers working on the project eases the burden on individuals and helps to avoid burnout that saps the strength of the volunteer group. Our relationship with two of our providers is strong and maybe even stronger than when we started. Our third provider relationship has deteriorated for a number of reasons and we will need to take into account that result for the future. We've also noted that you just can't advertise or reach out to the public enough. Our radio interview was very successful at reaching people in need and we will look to have more scheduled in 2019.

Attachments:

Complete list of animals spayed or neutered under this program in 2018.

For More Information Contact:

Name:

Kathleen M. Werner, President St. Mary's Animal Welfare League

Organization Name and Address:

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