



# MD SPCA's Free Spay/Neuter Program

Project #

21-616

County: Baltimore City

Number of Cats Spayed: 449

Number of Dogs Spayed: 84

Number of Cats Neutered: 517

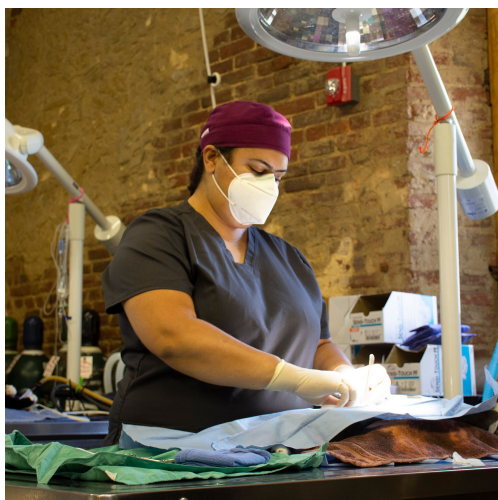
Number of Dogs Neutered: 84

Amount Received: \$50,400.00

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00

## Project Synopsis:

With support from the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Maryland SPCA completed 1,134 spay and neuter surgeries for owned pets of residents living in the following low-income Baltimore City zip codes: 21206, 21215, 21216, 21217, 21218, 21223, 21224, 21225, and 21229.



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## **Project Description:**

The Maryland SPCA used funding from the Maryland Department of Agriculture to provide free spay and neuter surgeries to qualifying pet owners. “Qualifying pet owners” are defined as those who live in Baltimore zip codes where at least 22.4% of residents live at or below the state-wide poverty line of \$24,300 for a family of four or \$11,800 for an individual. In 2021, we focused on nine zip codes that met this criterion – and represented high intake and euthanasia rates for city shelters.

## **Summary of Approach:**

Fiscal year 2021 marked the Maryland SPCA’s first year to fully resume our spay and neuter program operations since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which closed our doors to public spay and neuter surgeries temporarily. By maintaining the safety protocols and program modifications that we instituted in 2020 – from adhering to CDC guidelines and practicing social distancing, to wearing PPE and ensuring no members of the public enter the Spay and Neuter Clinic – we were able to operate our spay and neuter work without interruption – and while keeping our staff safe – in 2021.

## **Accomplishments:**

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the MD SPCA met both their proposed programmatic and fiscal objectives under our agreement with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, while prioritizing the safety of our staff, volunteers, and clients. •Installed new scheduling software: In Q1, the SPCA implemented a new practice software to streamline appointment scheduling. The software allows us to send electronic appointment reminders, which has decreased the amount of “no-show” appointments. •Fully expended grant: The MD SPCA fully expended the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s funding within six months -- that’s 50% of the time that was initially allotted to spend the grant. This quick expenditure is not indicative of having less spay and neuter surgery requests this year; rather, there was insufficient funding to meet the growing need for this critical service. •Met programmatic goals: With support from the Department of Agriculture, we successfully met our proposed goal to s



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## Lessons Learned:

This year, the MD SPCA began making spay and neuter referrals through two programs: Paw (Prevention and Wellness) Plus Clinic events and Kibble Connection (pet food pantry) events. The MD SPCA believes that this increased promotion and education helped us fulfil 7 additional spay/neuter surgery requests under this grant than in fiscal year 2020.

## For More Information Contact:

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