



Maryland Department of Agriculture Spay and Neuter Grants Program ANNUAL REPORT

August 2023

(July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

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Maryland Department of Agriculture

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This report details the activities and accomplishments of each element pertaining to the Maryland Spay and Neuter Grants Program for Fiscal Year 2023, covering July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This report should be read in full, for complete context.

The end of FY23 marks the close of the ninth year of funding for the Spay and Neuter Grants Program. As of June 30, 2023, the program has funded 247 projects that have provided 110,577 spay and neuter surgeries for dogs and cats of low-income families, as well as community cat programs.

The Spay and Neuter Advisory Board (SNAB) saw a couple changes in FY23, with outgoing pet food industry representative, Morgan Beach, of the Pet Food Institute (PFI). Betsy Flores, Senior Vice President of Public Policy for PFI, was recommended by PFI to fill the seat vacated by Ms. Beach. Nathaniel Boan, Caroline Griffin, and I met with Ms. Flores and subsequently recommended her for appointment to the SNAB, which was approved by Secretary Kevin M. Atticks in May of 2023.

I attended several outreach events during FY23, including the Maryland State Fair, where it was the “Featured Program” of the day on AgDay, BARCStoberfest, and Maryland SPCA’s Festival for the Animals, among others. In February 2023, I presented at the Friendship School’s STEAM Café lunch, along with three other MDA Program Coordinators, to educate the students about spay and neuter, and encourage their interest in animal health and other agricultural careers. Other outreach highlights included tabling at the Governor’s Buy Local Cookout held at MDA, and hosting the spring quarterly meeting of the Professional Animal Workers of Maryland (PAWS) at MDA.

I visited many grantee sites, and some potential grantees, during FY23, in nearly every county in the State. This outreach has helped foster better working relationships with the organizations and aides in making them aware of MDA resources. It has given some perspective and a better understanding of the specific needs and challenges in their communities. Lastly, having these in-person meetings has assisted with clarifying policies and procedures, reporting requirements, regulations, etc.

During the 2023 legislative session, the non-Departmental House Bill 365/Senate Bill 937 was introduced, altering the contents and authorized uses of the Spay/Neuter Fund; requiring MDA to establish a process through which a person may make a voluntary donation to the Fund; requiring MDA to give priority to grant applications that meet certain criteria; and requiring that fees to pet food manufacturers be adjusted annually for inflation. It failed to pass out of committee. However, a one-time allocation of \$200,000 from general funds was approved in the FY24 State Budget for the program.

Also during the session, House Bill 102/Senate Bill 279 was passed, which required MDA to publish a fact sheet on the protection of pets in the event of an eviction or any other loss of possession of real



property, by October 1, 2023. The Spay and Neuter Grants Program was tasked with creating the fact sheet and MDA webpage, which are both now completed and accessible to the public and property owners.

Pursuant to 2022's Senate Bill 206/House Bill 191, the required reporting for the pet food industry was submitted in September 2023, in advance of the October 1, 2023 due date.

In FY23, many projects and their partner veterinarians and agencies were still struggling to manage issues brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Cost increases on necessary drugs and supplies; reduced volunteer hours, which never truly rebounded from the significant drop during the height of the pandemic; staffing shortages in general; and more notably, the national veterinarian shortage, all combined have created an ongoing and persistent challenge for our grantees.

In 2021 through 2023, shelters saw their intake and euthanasia numbers begin to increase as was expected, after a short-lived reprieve in 2020 during the first several months of the COVID-19 shutdowns. This trend has continued and as you will see on the graphs located at the end of this report, we are nearly in the same spot as prior to the pandemic.



GRANT PROPOSALS SELECTED

FY23 Funding Cycle:

For the FY23 funding cycle, the MDA received 32 applications with a combined request of \$1,170,560.18 for 19,407 surgeries. Of those 32 applications, 31 were approved. The total amount granted was \$844,104.81 for 14,494 surgeries. The grant application acceptance period opened on January 11, 2022 and closed on April 1, 2022. The Spay and Neuter Advisory Board (SNAB) met virtually on August 19, 2022, and selected the following applications to recommend for funding. These recommendations were accepted by the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, Joseph Bartenfelder, on August 24, 2022.

The following table summarizes the funded recommendations provided to the Secretary for approval. They are in order of ranking based on the average cumulative scores by the SNAB.

Please note that subsequent to the Secretary’s approval, the Worcester County Humane Society grant amount was reduced by \$4,980 (to \$4,400 for 60 surgeries) per the shelter’s request, which is why the funding table totals do not match the amounts mentioned above.

RANK	APPLYING ORGANIZATION	REF #	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	TARGET COUNTY
1	Forgotten Cats, Inc. - Feral	23-8086A	\$31,875	Worcester
This grant will fund 750 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
2	Forgotten Cats, Inc. - Feral	23-8086B	\$42,500	Wicomico
This grant will fund 1,000 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
3	Maryland SPCA - Pet	23-8013	\$69,814	Baltimore City
This grant will fund 1,316 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
4	BARCS - Feral	23-8012	\$70,000	Baltimore City
This grant will fund 1,750 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
5	BARCS - Pet	23-8011	\$57,630	Baltimore City
This grant will fund 810 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				



RANK	APPLYING ORGANIZATION	REF #	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	TARGET COUNTY
6	Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue - Feral	23-8050	\$15,000	Howard
This grant will fund 300 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
7	Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue - Pet	23-8049	\$25,800	Howard
This grant will fund 390 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
8	Rude Ranch Animal Rescue - Pet	23-8001	\$28,040	Anne Arundel
This grant will fund 401 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
9	Tip Me Frederick - Feral	23-8038	\$29,896.80	Frederick
This grant will fund 480 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
10	Talbot Humane – Pet	23-8027	\$43,595	Talbot & Dorchester
This grant will fund 572 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
11	Rude Ranch Animal Rescue - Feral	23-8002	\$50,022.50	Anne Arundel
This grant will fund 765 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
12	Shadow Cats TNR, Inc. - Feral	23-8078	\$15,000	Harford
This grant will fund 300 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
13	Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter - Pet	23-8101	\$11,008	Calvert
This grant will fund 192 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
14	Laurel Cats Inc. - Feral	23-8010	\$57,600	Prince George's
This grant will fund 960 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				



RANK	APPLYING ORGANIZATION	REF #	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	TARGET COUNTY
15	Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. - Feral	23-8062	\$15,600	Prince George's
This grant will fund 240 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
16	A Cat's Life Rescue - Feral	23-8094	\$15,600	Prince George's
This grant will fund 240 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
17	Baltimore Humane Society - Pet	23-8005	\$23,940	Baltimore Co, Harford, Carroll
This grant will fund 280 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
18	Baltimore County Animal Services - Feral	23-8040	\$44,000	Baltimore Co
This grant will fund 1,100 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
19	Cecil County Animal Services - Pet	23-8073	\$21,895	Cecil
This grant will fund 351 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
20	Prince George's County Animal Services - Feral	23-8020	\$18,109.51	Prince George's
This grant will fund 240 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
21	Anne Arundel County Animal Care and Control - Pet	23-8059	\$11,400	Anne Arundel
This grant will fund 114 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
22	Worcester County Humane Society - Pet	23-8083	\$9,380	Worcester
This grant will fund 132 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders. <i>NOTE: This grant was subsequently reduced by \$4,980 (to \$4,400 for 60 surgeries) at the request of Worcester Co. Humane Society.</i>				



RANK	APPLYING ORGANIZATION	REF #	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	TARGET COUNTY
23	Chesapeake Feline Association - Feral	23-8046	\$37,800	Cecil, Harford
This grant will fund 600 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
24	February Star Sanctuary - Feral	23-8092	\$7,500	Frederick
This grant will fund 125 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
25	HART For Animals - Pet	23-8007	\$29,095	Garrett, Allegany
This grant will fund 332 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
26	Caroline County Humane Society - Pet	23-8065	\$7,300	Caroline
This grant will fund 123 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
27	Montgomery Co Community Cat Coalition - Feral	23-8098	\$5,830	Montgomery
This grant will fund 106 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
28	Humane Society of Wicomico County - Pet	23-8025	\$5,014.50	Wicomico
This grant will fund 81 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
29	Queen Anne's County Animal Services - Pet	23-8099	\$9,070	Queen Anne's
This grant will fund 95 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
30	Humane Society of Somerset County - Feral	23-8032	\$9,800	Somerset
This grant will fund 140 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				



RANK	APPLYING ORGANIZATION	REF #	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	TARGET COUNTY
31	St. Mary's Animal Welfare League - Pet	23-8079	\$29,970	St. Mary's
This grant will fund 281 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
Total Proposed Spay/Neuter Procedures: 14,566		Total Funding Amount Awarded: \$849,085.31		

Accomplishments for FY20 Funding Cycle Projects through FY23:

- All 30 of the approved projects have launched.
- 29 of the 30 projects have completed.
- Of the 29 completed projects, 22 projects (76% of the total projects) either met their target number of surgeries or exceeded their targets, five projects completed over 90% of their target surgeries, one project completed more than 85% of their target number of surgeries, and the lowest performing project completed 77% of their target surgeries.
- The one remaining open project has received several grant extensions, but has not been able to complete their project. They have been asked to return the remaining funds.
- As of the close of FY23, 15,256 of the 15,263 proposed spay/neuter surgeries (99.95%) have been completed.

Accomplishments for FY21 Funding Cycle Projects through FY23:

- All 29 of the approved projects have launched.
- 28 of the 29 approved projects have completed.
- Of the 28 completed projects, 24 projects (86% of the total projects) either met their target number of surgeries or exceeded their targets, and the other four projects completed 93% or more of their target surgeries.
- The one project that was still active at the end of FY23 ultimately submitted their final report just after the close of the fiscal year, and will be returning \$6,708 in unused funds, as they were not able to complete the project due to veterinary staffing issues.
- As of the close of FY23, 15,589 surgeries have been reported, exceeding the proposed 14,460 surgeries for this funding cycle (108%).

Accomplishments for FY22 Funding Cycle Projects through FY23:

- All 35 of the approved projects have launched.
- 32 of the 35 approved projects have completed as of the date of this report.
- Of the 32 completed projects, 25 projects (78% of the total projects) either met their target number of surgeries or exceeded their targets, two projects completed over 90% of their target surgeries, one project completed more than 85% of their target number of surgeries, and the lowest performing project completed 76% of their target surgeries.



- Two FY22 grantees returned a portion of their funding, after realizing they could not complete the projects, due to staffing issues. The total amount returned was \$9,821.50.
- As of the close of FY23, 14,273 of the 14,446 proposed spay/neuter surgeries (99%) have been completed.
- Staffing shortages in general, the national veterinarian shortage, increased costs for supplies, and other issues lingered throughout FY22 and into FY23, causing challenges for the program and grantees. The cost of gas at the end of FY22 was specifically cited by many organizations as it became very difficult to afford transportation of animals, and they saw decreased volunteer participation as a result, as well.

Accomplishments for FY23 Funding Cycle Projects:

- All 31 of the approved projects have launched.
- One of the 31 approved projects has already been completed as of the date of this report, and the grantee reached 103% of their target surgeries.
- As of the close of FY23, 7,116 of the 14,494 proposed spay/neuter surgeries (49%) have been completed.

Goals for FY24:

- SNAB meeting to be held on August 11, 2023 to make funding recommendations from the applications received for FY24.
- Continue visiting grantees, as well as shelters that are eligible to apply but have not done so.
- Solicit applications for FY25 funding beginning in January 2024.



NUMBER OF SPAY & NEUTER PROCEDURES PERFORMED TO DATE, BY GRANT

The list below gives the number of procedures completed by the grant recipients at the close of the fiscal year by projects funded in all funding cycles FY15 through FY23. Those projects shown in **BOLD** were still active at the close of FY23.

Fiscal Year and Project #	Grant Recipient	Procedures Completed as of FY22
FY15-004	Rude Ranch/Spay Spa Neuter Nook	471
FY15-010	Caroline County Humane Society	302
FY15-012	Baltimore Humane Society	407
FY15-013	HART for Animals	764
FY15-016	Laurel Cats	312
FY15-018	BARCS/MD SPCA	1,000
FY15-025	Humane Society of Charles Co.	192
FY15-32	SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's Co.	178
FY15-034	Prince George's Co. Animal Services	365
FY15-037	City of Greenbelt	383
FY15-039	ReLove Animals	118
FY15-045	Humane Society of Wicomico Co.	312
FY15-048	Talbot Humane	88
FY15-050	Charm City Companions	241
FY16-101	Rude Ranch/Spay Spa Neuter Nook	248
FY16-102	Humane Society of Somerset Co.	656
FY16-103	Humane Society of Charles Co.	378
FY16-104	HART for Animals	409
FY16-106	Caroline County Humane Society	342
FY16-107	Talbot Humane	703
FY16-108	Animal Welfare League of Queen Anne's Co.	143
FY16-109	Animal Welfare League of Montgomery Co.	72
FY16-111	Tip Me Frederick	600
FY16-113	Baltimore Co. Animal Services	1,116
FY16-117	Last Chance Animal Rescue	500
FY16-118	Allegany Co. Animal Shelter	119
FY16-119	Chesapeake Feline Association	357
FY16-121	MCPAW	363
FY16-122	BARCS/MD SPCA	1,250
FY16-125	Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue	118



FY16-126	Snip Tuck	455
FY16-127	Charm City Companions	274
FY16-128	Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue	164
FY17-201	Humane Society of Somerset Co./Rude Ranch	750
FY17-202	BARCS	3,000
FY17-203	Frederick Co. Animal Services	315
FY17-205	Baltimore Co. Animal Services	1,084
FY17-206	MCPAW	552
FY17-207	HART For Animals	510
FY17-208	Stepping Stone Animal Society	275
FY17-209	Humane Society of Kent Co.	210
FY17-210	Anne Arundel Co. Animal Services	151
FY17-213	Alley Cat Rescue	487
FY17-214	Feral Cat Rescue	303
FY17-215	Last Chance Animal Rescue	408
FY17-217	Charm City Companions	409
FY17-219	Humane Society of Charles Co.	329
FY17-220	Tip Me Frederick	562
FY17-221	Caroline Co. Humane Society	685
FY17-224	Laurel Cats	192
FY17-225	SPCA of Anne Arundel Co.	137
FY17-226	Talbot Humane	612
FY17-227	Chesapeake Feline Association	662
FY17-229	Humane Society of Carroll Co.	100
FY17-230	Prince George's Co. Animal Services	388
FY17-232	MDSPCA	1,299
FY17-234	Sunshine's Friends Dog & Cat Rescue	103
FY17-235	Sunshine's Friends Dog & Cat Rescue	131
FY18-301	Humane Society of Washington Co.	324
FY18-302	Humane Society of Wicomico Co.	328
FY18-305	Baltimore Co. Animal Services	1,284
FY18-307	Laurel Cats	265
FY18-308	BARCS	2,500
FY18-309	Prince George's Co. Animal Services	312
FY18-311	HART for Animals	503
FY18-312	Humane Society of Somerset Co./Rude Ranch	632
FY18-314	Bowie CLAW	245
FY18-315	Chesapeake Feline Association	645
FY18-316	Baltimore Humane Society	320
FY18-317	Cecil Co. Animal Services	593
FY18-318	Talbot Humane	736
FY18-319	MD SPCA	1,020



FY18-320	Tip Me Frederick	660
FY18-322	Last Chance Animal Rescue	602
FY18-323	Anne Arundel Co. Animal Services	316
FY18-324	Humane Society of Kent Co.	91
FY18-326	Humane Society Charles Co.	357
FY18-327	Humane Society Charles Co.	198
FY18-328	Chesapeake Charities/Tomcat Solutions	100
FY18-330	Best Friends in Harford County	341
FY18-332	Charm City Companions	457
FY18-333	Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue	130
FY18-334	Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue	156
FY18-335	Frederick Co. Animal Services	217
FY18-336	SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's Co.	514
FY18-337	St. Mary's Co. Animal Welfare League	504
FY19-401	HART for Animals	436
FY19-402	Caroline Co. Humane Society	270
FY19-403	Alley Cat Rescue	782
FY19-404	Humane Society of Somerset Co./Rude Ranch	589
FY19-405	Rude Ranch	819
FY19-408	Southern Maryland Spay and Neuter	39
FY19-409	Talbot Humane	467
FY19-410	Humane Society of Washington Co.	139
FY19-411	Anne Arundel Co. Animal Services	213
FY19-412	BARCS	2,375
FY19-413	Frederick Co. Humane Society	205
FY19-414	Feral Cat Rescue	220
FY19-415	Baltimore Humane Society	393
FY19-416	MD SPCA	1,016
FY19-417	Chesapeake Charities/Tomcat Solutions	202
FY19-418	Baltimore Co. Animal Services	1,988
FY19-419	Baltimore Co. Animal Services	482
FY19-420	Bowie CLAW	188
FY19-421	Last Chance Animal Rescue	570
FY19-422	MCPAW	208
FY19-423	Humane Society of Charles Co.	193
FY19-424	Chesapeake Feline Association	341
FY19-425	Snip Tuck	240
FY19-426	Tip Me Frederick	566
FY19-427	Cecil Co. Animal Services	372
FY19-428	Frederick Co. Animal Services	130
FY19-429	Worcester Co. Humane Society	221
FY19-430	Forgotten Cats	733



FY19-431	St. Mary's Animal Welfare League	425
FY19-432	Charm City Companions	474
FY19-433	Sunshine's Friends Dog and Cat Rescue	280
FY19-434	Animal Welfare League of Queen Anne's Co.	136
FY19-436	SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's Co.	368
FY19-437	Sunshine's Friends Dog and Cat Rescue	180
FY19-438	Laurel Cats	241
FY19-439	Best Friends in Harford County	439
FY20-503	Alley Cat Rescue	926
FY20-504	Humane Society of Somerset Co.	116
FY20-505	Rude Ranch/Spay Spa Neuter Nook	666
FY20-506	Rude Ranch/Spay Spa Neuter Nook	1,200
FY20-507	HART for Animals	358
FY20-509	Talbot Humane	397
FY20-511	BARCS	732
FY20-512	BARCS	2,500
FY20-513	Frederick Co. Humane Society	284
FY20-515	Baltimore Humane Society	361
FY20-516	MD SPCA	984
FY20-521	Last Chance Animal Rescue	450
FY20-522	MCPAW	103
FY20-524	Chesapeake Feline Association	795
FY20-526	Tip Me Frederick	606
FY20-527	Cecil Co. Animal Services	439
FY20-528	Forgotten Cats – Salisbury Co.	547
FY20-529	Worcester Co. Humane Society	102
FY20-530	Forgotten Cats – Worcester Co.	745
FY20-531	SMAWL	303
FY20-532	Charm City Companions	260
FY20-533	Sunshine's Friends Dog and Cat Rescue	333
FY20-535	Saving Future Feral Cats	99
FY20-536	SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's Co.	409
FY20-537	Sunshine's Friends Dog and Cat Rescue	252
FY20-538	Laurel Cats	159
FY20-539	Best Friends in Harford County	380
FY20-540	Prince George's Co. Animal Services	371
FY20-542	Anne Arundel Co. Animal Services	116
FY20-543	Anne Arundel Co. SPCA	81
FY21-601	The Humane Society of Charles Co.	368
FY21-602	Caroline Co. Humane Society	107
FY21-604	Humane Society of Somerset Co.	412



FY21-606	Rude Ranch/Spay Spa Neuter Nook	1,205
FY21-608	A Cat's Life	105
FY21-609	Talbot Humane	831
FY21-611	BARCS	1,080
FY21-612	BARCS	2,000
FY21-616	MD SPCA	1,135
FY21-618	Queen Anne's Co. Animal Services	60
FY21-619	Baltimore Co. Animal Services	678
FY21-621	Last Chance Animal Rescue	450
FY21-623	Humane Society of Charles Co.	517
FY21-624	Chesapeake Feline Association	710
FY21-625	Snip Tuck	300
FY21-626	Tip Me Frederick	715
FY21-627	Cecil Co. Animal Services	408
FY21-628	Forgotten Cats – Wicomico Co.	992
FY21-629	Worcester Co. Humane Society	76
FY21-630	Forgotten Cats – Worcester Co.	739
FY21-631	SMAWL	304
FY21-633	Sunshine's Friends Dog and Cat Rescue	265
FY21-634	MCC3	166
FY21-636	SPCA/Humane Society of Prince George's Co.	378
FY21-637	Sunshine's Friends Dog and Cat Rescue	253
FY21-638	Laurel Cats	343
FY21-639	Best Friends in Harford Co. (Shadow Cats TNR)	360
FY21-640	Prince George's Co. Animal Services	262
FY21-641	Anne Arundel Co. Animal Services	370
FY22-7001	Rude Ranch	601
FY22-7002	Rude Ranch	852
FY22-7003	Caroline Co. Humane Society	102
FY22-7005	Baltimore Humane Society	431
FY22-7007	HART for Animals	308
FY22-7010	Laurel Cats	220
FY22-7011	BARCS	1,259
FY22-7012	BARCS	1,800
FY22-7013	MD SPCA	600
FY22-7015	Humane Society of Charles Co.	87
FY22-7016	Humane Society of Charles Co.	522
FY22-7017	Prince George's Co. SPCA	223
FY22-7019	Prince George's Co. Animal Services	152
FY22-7025	Humane Society of Wicomico Co.	101
FY22-7027	Talbot Humane	500



FY22-7031	Humane Society of Somerset Co.	122
FY22-7038	Tip Me Frederick	643
FY22-7040	Baltimore Co. Animal Services	600
FY22-7046	Chesapeake Feline Association	764
FY22-7049	Sunshine's Friends Dog & Cat Rescue	319
FY22-7050	Sunshine's Friends Dog & Cat Rescue	226
FY22-7057	Kent Humane	70
FY22-7073	Cecil Co. Animal Services	317
FY22-7078	Shadow Cats TNR	401
FY22-7079	SMAWL	316
FY22-7083	Worcester Co. Humane Society	79
FY22-7085a	Forgotten Cats - Worcester	672
FY22-7085b	Forgotten Cats - Wicomico	893
FY22-7087	Frederick Co. Humane Society	247
FY22-7090	Beltsville Community Cats	105
FY22-7092	February Star Sanctuary	91
FY22-7094	A Cat's Life Rescue	210
FY22-7095	Baywater Animal Rescue	70
FY22-7098	MCC3	151
FY22-7099	Queen Anne's Co. Animal Services	76
FY23-8001	Rude Ranch Animal Rescue	253
FY23-8002	Rude Ranch Animal Rescue	93
FY23-8005	Baltimore Humane Society	117
FY23-8007	HART For Animals	309
FY23-8010	Laurel Cats Inc.	530
FY23-8011	BARCS	148
FY23-8012	BARCS	146
FY23-8013	Maryland SPCA	832
FY23-8020	Prince George's County AS	43
FY23-8025	Humane Society of Wicomico County	53
FY23-8027	Talbot Humane	429
FY23-8032	Humane Society of Somerset County	144
FY23-8038	Tip Me Frederick	528
FY23-8040	Baltimore County AS	826
FY23-8046	Chesapeake Feline Association	172
FY23-8049	Sunshine's Friends Cat & Dog Rescue	390
FY23-8050	Sunshine's Friends Cat & Dog Rescue	300
FY23-8059	Anne Arundel County ACC	0
FY23-8062	Alley Cat Rescue, Inc.	183
FY23-8065	Caroline County Humane Society	61
FY23-8073	Cecil County Animal Services	350



FY23-8078	Shadow Cats TNR, Inc.	133
FY23-8079	St. Mary's Animal Welfare League	93
FY23-8083	Worcester County Humane Society	7
FY23-8086a	Forgotten Cats, Inc. (Worcester)	158
FY23-8086b	Forgotten Cats, Inc. (Wicomico)	378
FY23-8092	February Star Sanctuary	32
FY23-8094	A Cat's Life Rescue	219
FY23-8098	MCC3	47
FY23-8099	Queen Anne's County Animal Services	75
FY23-8101	Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter	67
TOTAL SURGERIES AS OF 6/30/23:		110,577

Accomplishments by Funding Cycle as of the Close of FY23:

- The cumulative target number of surgeries proposed by funded projects from all eight funding cycles thus far is 115,884 procedures. As of the end of the fiscal year, 110,569, or 95% of the total target number of surgeries were completed. This number includes the 32 active projects that are not yet complete.
- Of the completed projects (FY15 through FY19):
 - FY15 cycle resulted in 5,133 procedures out of the 5,340 projected (96.1%)
 - FY16 resulted in 8,267 procedures out of the 8,281 projected (99.8%)
 - FY17 resulted in 13,654 procedures out of the 12,863 projected (106.15%)
 - FY18 resulted in 14,350 procedures out of the 13,973 projected (102.7%)
 - FY19 resulted in 16,940 procedures out of the 16,364 projected (103.5%)
- Of the three funding cycles with active projects at the close of FY23:
 - FY20 projects have completed 15,256 surgeries (99.95% of the 15,263 FY20 goal), with one project still active at the close of FY23.
 - FY21 projects have completed 15,589 surgeries (108% of the 14,460 goal), with one project still active at the close of FY23.
 - FY22 projects have completed 14,273 surgeries (99% of the 14,446 goal), with three projects still active at the close of FY23.
 - FY23 projects have completed 7,116 surgeries (49% of the 14,494 goal), with 27 projects still active at the close of FY23. *There is one organization with an active grant, which as of the completion of this report, has two quarters of unreported data in the fiscal year.*

Goals for FY24:

- Close out the remaining active projects from FY20 and FY21.
- Continue managing the FY22 and FY23 project cycles.
- Fund as many projects as fully as possible from the pool of FY24 cycle applications, and manage the FY24 projects cycle.
- Provide oversight for all projects to ensure funds are dispersed to grantees as per each project schedule, that all reports and related project obligations are met, and to offer assistance and guidance to all project managers to help them reach or exceed their goals.



PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The following summarizes the outreach efforts put forth with regards to the Spay and Neuter Program during the fiscal year.

Accomplishments for FY23:

- The Spay and Neuter Advisory Board met on August 19, 2022 to discuss funding for FY23 projects. This was the third time that the board met virtually. The meeting was advertised on the MDA website two weeks prior to the meeting date and distributed to the media by the MDA's Public Information Office. Attendees from the general public were welcome, but none were in attendance.
- Program announcements were made on the department's website, on MDA's social media accounts (Twitter and Facebook), and on the program webpage.
- The program webpage is located on the department's website and is the main repository for all documents, materials, and information relating to the Spay and Neuter Grants Program. The program coordinator updated this webpage with additional information and materials. In addition, other helpful materials and information were added to the webpage to benefit grantees and the general public. A new section was added for Pet Food Manufacturers, with answers to frequently asked questions, and useful contact information. There were 51,895 unique visits to the Spay and Neuter Grants Program website in FY23.
- In FY23, with public events resuming, promotional items were purchased to give away at outreach events: pet safety window clings, drink koozies, magnets, and reusable pet food can lids.
- I attended several outreach events during FY23, including the Maryland State Fair, where it was the "Featured Program" of the day on AgDay; BARCStoberfest; and Maryland SPCA's Festival for the Animals; among others.
- In February 2023, I presented at the Friendship School's STEAM Café lunch, along with three other MDA Program Coordinators, to encourage student interest in animal health and other agricultural careers.
- Other outreach highlights included tabling at the Governor's Buy Local Cookout held at MDA, and hosting the spring quarterly meeting of the Professional Animal Workers of Maryland (PAWS) at MDA.
- Each funded project performs outreach and education, not only about the services provided through their grants, but important general information about the need and benefits from the spay and neuter of owned pets and community cats, and where to find help, additional information, and resources.

Goals for FY24:

- Continue to promote the program through all media available, including a focus on messaging via MDA social media.
- Attend as many public events as possible, in partnership with grantees providing programs in the area, whenever possible.



- Look for new ideas and materials to promote the program to the public and potential applicants.



ADVISORY BOARD

The Maryland Secretary of Agriculture appointed the seven-member Advisory Board on November 7, 2013. The board was tasked to make recommendations on the program guidelines and regulations needed to implement the state's Spay and Neuter Fund and each cycle, make funding recommendations to the secretary.

Accomplishments for FY23:

- From the program's start in 2013 and each year following, the goal of the Advisory Board and MDA has been to make each element of the program the best it could be. Each year, materials are developed, updated, and improved.
- During June through August of 2022, the board carefully reviewed all 32 grant applications for FY23 funding. In anticipation of the formal review meeting, which was held virtually on August 19, 2022, each reviewer conducted their independent evaluations, and provided them to the program coordinator. These scores were used to rank the 32 applications to facilitate the discussion and help the board formulate funding recommendations that were submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Betsy Flores joined the Advisory Board in May 2023, to fill the pet food industry representative seat on the Board which was previously filled by Morgan Beach.

Goals for FY24:

- Continue to strive for efficiency in the program and the processes.
- Continue to review and score FY24 grant applications, which have been under review since FY23.
- Hold annual meeting, in-person at MDA, on August 11, 2023 to discuss and vote on formulating the funding recommendations to be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture.



DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND MATERIALS

Accomplishments for FY23:

- All application forms, instructions, report forms, grant agreement, program webpages, etc. were reviewed and updated as necessary.
- FY24 grant materials were developed, program webpage updated with new materials, and OneStop forms were updated to reflect same.
- A new section was added to the program website, for Pet Food Manufacturers, with answers to their frequently asked questions and helpful contact information.
- All reports and data that were missing from the program website, due to COVID-19 complications, were added to the site and kept current.
- An audit of reports and other data in OneStop was conducted, and any missing data was added.
- A private Facebook group was created for managers of active projects, to network with each other, build partnerships, and share resources and knowledge. The Program Coordinator also uses the forum to distribute announcements, reminders, and information, in addition to emails.

Goals for FY24:

- Conduct an annual review of all applications, reports, guidance, materials, website/webforms, and systems; update or improve as needed.
- Continue keeping the project website updated with current information.
- Continue to explore and develop new tools for applicants and project managers.
- Continue working with EY and DoIT to fine tune the OneStop portal, and address any such issues as they may arise.
- Continue working with DoIT on the FY24 OneStop Modernization Plan.



FEE COLLECTION

The program is funded from annual fees levied on manufacturers of all dog and cat feed and treats registered with the Maryland State Chemist Office. The following lists the accomplishments in fee collection during this period. By law, the program must invoice registrants for the annual fee during the first week of October, and payments, whether made immediately or any time subsequent to the invoice date, are good only until the following October. The registrants are asked to review the invoice and product list on which the fee was calculated. They were instructed to delete any products no longer sold in Maryland or did not meet the definition of “cat or dog feed or treat” or add any new products that may have been missing from the list.

Accomplishments during FY23:

- Invoices for the 2022-23 billing period were sent during the first week of October 2022. Using product and registrant information from the State Chemist database, the invoices were created by DoIT. Each invoice was sent via first class U.S. mail and included an explanatory letter, a list of products on which the invoice total was based, and instructions as to where to send the payment.
- The program coordinator maintained a program fee Excel spreadsheet that serves as the main repository of fee remittance information. The coordinator maintained all paperwork pertaining to each paid invoice.
- Formal second notices were sent in January 2023, subsequent attempts to make contact with delinquent accounts occurred on additional dates by email and telephone, and then finally a third notice via U.S.P.S. certified and/or registered mail was sent in early May 2023 to the final three remaining delinquent accounts. At the end of June 2023, these three accounts were sent to the State Collections Agency. Two of these accounts also owe 2021-2022 fees, which were not sent to collections last year, therefore we are attempting to collect on both years of fees at this time, as they are continuing to register products for sale in Maryland, but refusing to pay the Spay/Neuter Fee.
- The total number of products invoiced were 8,896 for a total of \$889,600.00. Of those products, 490 (\$49,000) old products were removed. New products added totaled 286 (\$28,600).
- As of June 30, 2023, \$867,900 has been paid, with just \$1,400 due in total between the three delinquent accounts that were sent to collections.
- Pursuant to 2022’s Senate Bill 206/House Bill 191, the required reporting to the pet food industry on additional funding sources was submitted in September 2023, in advance of the October 1, 2023 due date.
- A new section was added to the program website, for Pet Food Manufacturers, with answers to their frequently asked questions and helpful contact information. Much of this page is in response to questions regarding the fees.
- During the 2023 legislative session, the non-Departmental House Bill 365/Senate Bill 937 was introduced, altering the contents and authorized uses of the Spay/Neuter Fund; requiring MDA to establish a process through which a person may make a voluntary donation to the Fund; requiring MDA to give priority to grant applications that meet certain criteria; and



requiring that fees to pet food manufacturers be adjusted annually for inflation. It failed to pass out of committee. However, a one-time allocation of \$200,000 from general funds was approved in the FY24 State Budget for the Program.

Goals for FY24:

- Attempt to collect on the unpaid fees that were sent to the State Collections Agency.
- Continue to maintain invoice fee tracking spreadsheet, and provide support for pet food registrants regarding the fees.
- Send out 2023-24 invoices by the first week of October 2023.
- Work with the State Chemist's Office to help educate feed registrants and potential registrants about the Spay and Neuter Program and its fees.



SHELTER STATISTICS SURVEYS

As stipulated in SB 820, “beginning January 1, 2014, each county and municipal animal control shelter and each organization that contracts with a county or municipality for animal control shall report quarterly to the department on a form prescribed by the Department describing for the previous 3 months: (1) the number of cats and dogs taken in; (2) the number of cats and dogs disposed of, broken down by method of disposal, including euthanasia; and department describing for the previous 3 months.” The following details what the program coordinator did during this reporting period to meet this requirement.

Accomplishments for FY23:

- As of the date of this report, 34 facilities report shelter data to the department. Of these facilities, 29 are municipal animal services agencies or nonprofit animal shelters that receive partial county funding, and five are private nonprofit organizations that do not receive county funding.
- While agencies saw a significant decrease in the number of intakes and euthanasia at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in our area, unfortunately during FY22 and into FY23, shelters across our state saw these numbers increase. This was expected, as we know that during the onset of COVID-19, shelter intake and euthanasia rates were unusually low for several months.
- The program website was updated with any missing reports and data, and the statistics reporting page was updated with additional information and helpful links.

Goals for FY24:

- Create a trend analysis report to be posted on the Spay and Neuter Program website.



