



**Maryland Department of Agriculture**  
**Spay and Neuter Grants Program**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**August 2024**  
*(Reporting period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)*

**ANNUAL REPORT**

8/31/2024

Maryland Department of Agriculture

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## **Maryland Department of Agriculture Spay and Neuter Grants Program ANNUAL REPORT**

*August 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)*

This report details the activities and accomplishments of each element pertaining to the Maryland Spay and Neuter Grants Program for Fiscal Year 2024, covering July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. This report should be read in full, for complete context.

The end of FY24 marks the close of the 10<sup>th</sup> year of funding for the Spay and Neuter Grants Program. As of June 30, 2024, the program has awarded \$7,866,957 to fund 281 projects that have provided 124,896 spay and neuter surgeries for dogs and cats of low-income families, and for community cats.

The Spay and Neuter Advisory Board (SNAB) membership saw a couple of changes in FY24, with the departure of Emily Hovermale, who served as the private shelter representative for the past six years. In May of 2024, Colin A. Berry was appointed to the Spay and Neuter Advisory Board by Secretary Kevin M. Atticks. Ms. Berry will represent private animal shelters on the SNAB, and will provide representation for the shelters of Western Maryland.

The program attended several outreach events during FY24, including the Maryland State Fair, where the Spay and Neuter Grants Program was the “Featured Program” of the day on August 27, and BARCStoberfest on October 28, among others. In April of 2024, Jen Swanson, the program coordinator, spearheaded a collaborative field trip for 30 students of the Friendship School’s STEAM Café program, 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.

The program coordinator visited many grantee sites, and some potential grantees, during FY24, 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.

A one-time allocation of \$200,000 from general funds was approved in the FY24 State Budget for the Program, and in FY24 the allocation was used to fund several large grants.

As initially reported in FY23, many projects and their partner veterinarians and agencies continue to struggle with managing 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, have all combined to create an ongoing and persistent challenge for our grantees. One of the most alarming results of these challenges has been the sharp increase to intakes at shelters around the nation, which includes our shelters here in Maryland.



Unfortunately, despite the program's success, we have seen a rebound in shelter statistics back to pre-pandemic levels. In 2020, shelters saw their intake and euthanasia numbers sharply decline due to changing shelter operations and stay at home orders, but then slowly began to increase during 2021 and 2022. In 2023, intake numbers returned to approximately what they were in 2019, prior to COVID-19. As you will see on the graphs located at the end of this report, total shelter intakes in 2023 were 76,544 – similar to total intake numbers in 2019, prior to COVID-19, which was 75,792. It is worth noting that while the intakes have increased rapidly during the COVID-19 period, in a relatively short period of time, euthanasia rates have not increased at the same rate, and adoptions have essentially kept pace over that time, which is a testament to the Spay and Neuter Program and the hard work of our Maryland shelter staff.

In working with the shelters to try and identify the reasons for this rapid spike in intakes, the most common reasons that have been provided for owner surrenders are veterinary medical issues that the pet owner cannot afford to remedy; housing insecurity (pet owners either losing their home, or unable to find affordable housing that allows pets and/or certain breeds of dogs); and general financial instability. Another large source of intakes are stray animals. While these are not new types of intake reasons, it's simply that the quantity of these types of intakes has increased significantly over the past two years.



## GRANT PROPOSALS SELECTED

**FY24 Funding Cycle:**

For the FY24 funding cycle, MDA received 36 applications, with a combined request of \$1,339,953 for 20,381 surgeries. Of those 36 applications, 33 were approved. Please note that subsequent to the Secretary’s approval of the 33 grants, the Humane Society of Charles County declined their Owned Pet grant, citing internal staffing issues. Therefore, the total number of grants awarded was 32, and the amount granted was \$902,958 for 14,590 surgeries. The grant application acceptance period opened on January 6, 2023 and closed on March 31, 2023. The Spay and Neuter Advisory Board (SNAB) met on August 11, 2023, and selected the following applications to recommend for funding. These recommendations were accepted by the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, Kevin M. Atticks, on August 27, 2023.

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.

RANK	APPLYING ORGANIZATION	REF #	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	TARGET COUNTY
1	Maryland SPCA, Inc.	24-9013	\$102,274.00	Baltimore City
This grant will fund 1,876 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
2	Forgotten Cats	24-9086B	\$50,000.00	Wicomico County
This grant will fund 1,000 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
3	Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter (BARCS)	24-9012	\$72,000.00	Baltimore City
This grant will fund 1,800 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
4	Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue	24-9050	\$16,255.00	Anne Arundel; Howard County
This grant will fund 325 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
5	Forgotten Cats	24-9086A	\$37,500.00	Worcester County
This grant will fund 750 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
6	Baltimore Humane Society	24-9005	\$28,440.00	Baltimore County; Carroll County; Harford County
This grant will fund 360 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				



RANK	APPLYING ORGANIZATION	REF #	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	TARGET COUNTY
7	Talbot Humane	24-9027	\$56,000.00	Dorchester County; Talbot County
This grant will fund 600 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
8	Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue	24-9049	\$30,690.00	Anne Arundel County; Howard County
This grant will fund 425 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
9	Alley Cat Rescue, Inc.	24-9062	\$13,000.00	Prince George's County
This grant will fund 200 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
10	Cecil County Animal Services	24-9073	\$37,095.00	Cecil County
This grant will fund 586 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
11	Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter	24-9101	\$9,840.00	Calvert County
This grant will fund 160 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
12	A Cat's Life Rescue	24-9094	\$18,200.00	Prince George's County
This grant will fund 280 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
13	Laurel Cats, Inc.	24-9010	\$64,000.00	Prince George's County
This grant will fund 800 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
14	Shadow Cats TNR	24-9078	\$7,500.00	Harford County
This grant will fund 300 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
15	Rude Ranch Animal Rescue	24-9001	\$28,365.00	Anne Arundel County
This grant will fund 407 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
16	Prince George's County Animal Services Division	24-9019	\$32,000.00	Prince George's County
This grant will fund 320 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				



RANK	APPLYING ORGANIZATION	REF #	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	TARGET COUNTY
17	Baltimore County Animal Services	24-9040	\$48,000.00	Baltimore County
This grant will fund 1,200 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
18	Snip Tuck, Inc.	24-9052	\$12,800.00	Dorchester County
This grant will fund 256 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
19	Humane Society of Somerset County MD	24-9032	\$13,600.00	Somerset County
This grant will fund 272 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
20	HART for Animals	24-9007	\$26,745.00	Allegany County; Garrett County
This grant will fund 306 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
21	Rude Ranch Animal Rescue	24-9002	\$37,500.00	Anne Arundel County
This grant will fund 560 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
22	Caroline County Humane Society	24-9003	\$13,600.00	Caroline County
This grant will fund 80 spay and neuter surgeries for pet dogs of low-income Marylanders.				
23	Last Chance Animal Rescue	24-9042	\$24,000.00	Prince George's County
This grant will fund 300 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
24	Caroline County Humane Society	24-9004	\$20,400.00	Caroline County
This grant will fund 204 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
25	Feral Cat Rescue, Inc	24-9064	\$20,000.00	St. Mary's County
This grant will fund 250 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.				
26	Humane Society of Wicomico County	24-9025	\$5,080.00	Wicomico County
This grant will fund 76 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.				
27	Queen Anne's County Animal Services	24-9099	\$6,270.00	Queen Anne's County



RANK	APPLYING ORGANIZATION	REF #	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	TARGET COUNTY
<b>This grant will fund 60 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.</b>				
28	Chesapeake Feline Association	24-9046	\$19,460.00	Cecil County; Harford County
<b>This grant will fund 336 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.</b>				
29	Humane Society of Charles County	24-9016	\$14,700.00	Charles County; St. Mary's County; Zip 20613 in Prince George's County
<b>This grant will fund 210 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.</b>				
30	St. Mary's Animal Welfare League	24-9079	\$20,470.00	St. Mary's County
<b>This grant will fund 147 spay and neuter surgeries for pets of low-income Marylanders.</b>				
31	Montgomery County Community Cat Coalition	24-9098	\$6,674.00	Montgomery County
<b>This grant will fund 94 spay and neuter surgeries for community cats.</b>				
34	Somerset County Dog Control	24-9105	\$10,500.00	Somerset County
<b>This grant will fund 50 spay and neuter surgeries for pet dogs of low-income Marylanders.</b>				
<b>Total Number of Approved Surgeries: 14,590</b>			<b>Total Amount Awarded: \$902,958</b>	

**Accomplishments for FY20 Funding Cycle Projects through FY24:**

- 29 of the 30 approved projects have been completed as of June 30, 2024.
- 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 (20-532) has received several grant extensions, but has not been able to complete their project. They have been asked to return the remaining funds, but to date have not done so.
- As of the close of FY24, 15,256 of the 15,263 proposed spay/neuter surgeries (99.95%) have been completed.



**Accomplishments for FY21 Funding Cycle Projects through FY24:**

- All 29 approved projects have been completed.
- Of the 29 completed projects, 24 projects (86% of the total projects) either met their target number of surgeries or exceeded their targets, and four projects completed 93% or more of their target surgeries.
- One project was not able to meet their project goals, and achieved only 78.9% of their target surgeries, citing veterinarian staffing issues; subsequently they returned \$6,708 in unused funds.
- Another project was able to exceed their target surgeries, but still had \$2,203 in unused funds, which they returned.
- As of the close of FY24, 15,406 surgeries have been reported, exceeding the proposed 14,460 surgeries for this funding cycle (106.5%).

**Accomplishments for FY22 Funding Cycle Projects through FY24:**

- 34 of the 35 approved projects have been completed as of June 30, 2024.
- Of the 34 completed projects, 25 projects (73% of the total projects) either met their target number of surgeries or exceeded their targets, four 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 47% 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 FY24, 14,220 of the 14,446 proposed spay/neuter surgeries (99%) have been completed.

**Accomplishments for FY23 Funding Cycle Projects:**

- 28 of the 31 approved projects have been completed as of June 30, 2024.
- Of the 28 completed projects, 16 projects (57% of the total projects) either met their target number of surgeries or exceeded their targets, eight projects completed over 90% of their target surgeries, two projects completed more than 80% of their target number of surgeries, and the lowest performing project completed 57% of their target surgeries.
- Four FY23 grantees returned unused grant funds, totaling \$20,237.50.
  - The largest of these refunds was \$18,185 returned by Chesapeake Feline Association. Due to increased costs, and the veterinarian and other staffing shortages, they had to close their Spay & Neuter Clinic in Cecil County in FY23.
- As of the close of FY24, 13,631 of the 14,494 proposed spay/neuter surgeries (92%) have been completed.

**Accomplishments for FY24 Funding Cycle Projects:**

- Three of the 32 approved projects have been completed as of June 30, 2024.
- Of the three completed projects, all three projects (9% of the total projects) either met their target number of surgeries or exceeded their targets.
- As of the close of FY24, 7,508 of the 14,590 proposed spay/neuter surgeries (51%) have been completed.



**Goals for FY25:**

- SNAB meeting to be held on August 23, 2024 to make funding recommendations for FY25 applications.
- Continue visiting grantees, as well as shelters that are eligible to apply but have not done so.
- Solicit applications for FY26 funding beginning in January 2025.



## NUMBER OF SPAY & NEUTER PROCEDURES PERFORMED TO DATE

### Accomplishments by Funding Cycle as of the Close of FY24:

- The cumulative target number of surgeries proposed by funded projects from all 10 funding cycles thus far is 130,074 procedures. As of the end of the fiscal year, 124,896, or 96% of the total target number of surgeries were completed. This number includes active projects that are not yet complete.
- Of the completed projects (FY15 through FY19 and FY21):
  - FY15 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%)
  - FY21 resulted in 15,407 procedures out of the 14,460 projected (106.5%)
- Of the four funding cycles with active projects at the close of FY24:
  - FY20 projects have completed 15,256 surgeries (99.9% of the 15,263 goal), with one project still active at the close of FY24.
  - FY22 projects have completed 14,221 surgeries (98.4% of the 14,446 goal), with one project still active at the close of FY24.
  - FY23 projects have completed 14,160 surgeries (97.6% of the 14,494 goal), with three projects still active at the close of FY24.
  - FY24 projects have completed 7,508 surgeries (51.4% of the 14,590 goal), with 26 projects still active at the close of FY24.

The list below shows the number of procedures completed as of the close of the fiscal year, for all projects that were active as of June 30, 2024.

Fiscal Year and Project #	Grant Recipient	Procedures Completed as of 6/30/24
FY20-532	Charm City Companions	260
FY22-7015	Humane Society of Charles Co.	178
FY23-8012	BARCS	1,221
FY23-8059	Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control	15
FY23-8086a	Forgotten Cats, Inc. (Worcester)	583
FY24-9001	Rude Ranch Animal Rescue	249
FY24-9002	Rude Ranch Animal Rescue	264
FY24-9003	Caroline County Humane Society	79
FY24-9005	Baltimore Humane Society	175
FY24-9007	HART for Animals, Inc.	293



FY24-9010	Laurel Cats, Inc.	758
FY24-9012	BARCS	55
FY24-9013	Maryland SPCA, Inc.	890
FY24-9016	Humane Society of Charles County	54
FY24-9019	Prince George's County Animal Services Division	0
FY24-9025	Humane Society of Wicomico County	69
FY24-9027	Talbot Humane	413
FY24-9040	Baltimore County Animal Services	626
FY24-9046	Chesapeake Feline Association Inc.	175
FY24-9052	Snip Tuck, Inc.	132
FY24-9062	Alley Cat Rescue, Inc.	168
FY24-9064	Feral Cat Rescue, Inc	231
FY24-9073	Cecil County Animal Services	346
FY24-9078	Shadow Cats TNR	119
FY24-9079	SMAWL	105
FY24-9086A	Forgotten Cats, Inc. (Worcester)	0
FY24-9086B	Forgotten Cats, Inc. (Wicomico)	252
FY24-9094	A Cat's Life Rescue	248
FY24-9099	Queen Anne's County Animal Services	50
FY24-9101	Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter	56
FY24-9105	Somerset County Dog Control	21

**Goals for FY25:**

- Close out the remaining active projects.
- Continue managing the active projects.
- Make funding recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture from the pool of FY25 cycle applications, initiate and manage the FY25 projects.
- 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**

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

### **Accomplishments for FY24:**

- The Spay and Neuter Advisory Board met on August 11, 2023 to discuss funding for FY24 projects. 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. No one from the general public attended.
- 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 reviews and audits the webpage throughout the year, and adds updates and additional information and materials as necessary. There were 51,401 unique visits to the Spay and Neuter Grants Program website in FY24.
- Outreach events attended during FY24 include the Maryland State Fair, where it was the "Featured Program" of the day, the Governor's Buy Local Cookout held at MDA, and BARCStoberfest.
- In April 2024, Jen Swanson, program coordinator, helped facilitate a field trip for students of the Friendship School's STEAM Café, to the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, with the goal of encouraging their interest in animal veterinary health and other agricultural careers.
- Additional tri-fold rack brochures were ordered for the program in FY24.
- In addition to the initiatives above, each funded project performs localized and targeted 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 additional resources.

### **Goals for FY25:**

- 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

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

### Accomplishments for FY24:

- During May through August of 2023, the SNAB carefully reviewed all 36 grant applications submitted for FY24 funding. In anticipation of the annual funding meeting in August, each reviewer conducted their independent evaluations and scored the applications via OneStop. These scores were used to rank the applications, in order to facilitate the discussion, and help the SNAB formulate funding recommendations to submit to the Secretary of Agriculture.
- The SNAB met on August 11, 2023 to discuss funding for FY24 projects. This was the first time that the board held an in-person (albeit hybrid) meeting since the onset of COVID-19. Two SNAB members attended virtually, one member was not able to attend, and the rest of the SNAB met in-person at MDA headquarters.
- Ms. Colin A. Berry joined the SNAB in May 2024, to fill the private shelter representative seat on the Board, which had been held by Emily Hovermale since 2018. As of June 30, 2024 there were no vacant seats on the SNAB.

### Goals for FY25:

- Continue to strive for efficiency in the program and the processes.
- Continue to review and score FY25 grant applications, which have been under review by the SNAB since May 15, 2024.
- Hold hybrid (in-person/virtual) annual meeting at MDA, on August 23, 2024 to discuss and vote on formulating the FY25 funding recommendations to be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Hold a SNAB meeting in the Fall to discuss updates to the Program.



## **DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND MATERIALS**

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### **Accomplishments for FY24:**

- All application forms, instructions, report forms, grant agreement, program web pages, etc. were reviewed and updated as necessary.
- FY25 grant materials were developed, the program webpage updated with new materials, and OneStop forms were updated to reflect the same.
- Worked on additional workflow enhancements for applications to the OneStop portal with EY and DoIT.
- Began development of an online payment system for pet food manufacturers.
- An annual audit of reports and other data in OneStop was conducted to ensure data is correct.
- Additional tri-fold rack brochures were ordered for the program in FY24.

### **Goals for FY25:**

- Conduct 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

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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. The program invoices 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 FY24:

- Invoices for the 2023-24 billing period were sent during the first week of October 2023. 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 2024, and subsequent attempts to make contact with delinquent accounts occurred on additional dates by email and telephone.
- Third notices via U.S.P.S. certified and/or registered mail were sent in May 2024 to the remaining delinquent accounts. At the end of July 2024, these accounts were sent to the State’s Central Collections Unit (CCU).
  - Two of these accounts also owe 2021-2022 as well as 2022-2023 fees, and they were sent to CCU on June 28, 2023, to collect on both years of fees at that time. As of yet, they have not paid those two years of fees, and also have not paid for the 2023-2024 fees, but they are continuing to register products for sale in Maryland, while refusing to pay the Spay and Neuter Fees.
- The total number of products invoiced was 10,724 for a total of \$1,072,400. Of those products, 775 (\$77,500) old products were removed. New products added totaled 168 (\$16,800).
- As of June 30, 2024, \$993,900 had been collected, with \$17,800 still due from 18 registrants.
- 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 one-time allocation of \$200,000 from general funds was approved in the FY24 State Budget for the Program, and in FY24 the allocation was used to fund several large grants.

### Goals for FY25:

- Continue to attempt to collect the unpaid fees that were sent to the CCU.



- Continue to maintain invoice fee tracking spreadsheet, and provide support for pet food registrants regarding the fees.
- Send out 2024-25 invoices by the first week of October 2024.
- Work with the State Chemist's Office and EY to streamline the fee payment process.



## SHELTER STATISTICS SURVEYS

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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 FY24:

- As of the date of this report, 32 facilities report shelter data to the department. Of these facilities, 27 are municipal animal services agencies or nonprofit animal shelters that receive partial county funding, and five are private non profit 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, starting in 2021 and through FY24, 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. Shelter intake levels are now approximately at the same level as 2019, prior to the pandemic.
- 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 FY25:

- Continue to work closely with shelters to help decrease intakes and euthanasias.
- Make the public more aware of the increase in shelter intakes, and how they can help.



