



HAYWOOD SPAY/NEUTER

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Serving the Community by Providing Low-cost Spay/Neuter Services and Animal Wellness Programs

2017 Annual Program Report

Introduction

In 2017, another 1,588 cats and dogs were fixed through Haywood Spay/Neuter. This was 12 short of our 2017 goal to provide 1,600 low-cost spay/neuter surgeries. While the number we served was lower, fewer pets - especially dogs - entered the shelter during 2017.

The Haywood County animal shelter intake has been steadily declining along with the euthanasia rate, which was a record low of 6%! We believe that our efforts to increase the number of pets that are spayed or neutered in the county have been a prime reason that fewer pets are entering the shelter.

Since we began tracking spay/neuter numbers in 2003, Haywood Spay/Neuter has provided surgeries for 22,803 cats and dogs.

We firmly believe in our mission to provide low-cost spay/neuter surgeries. Through our long-standing partnership with ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance in Asheville, we provided low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for 357 owned cats, 626 community cats, and 558 dogs this year.

Fees for our services were kept at the 2015 rate of \$10 for those clients under 100% of the U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines; \$20 for those between 100 to 300% of those guidelines; and \$60 for all others. Again, 91% of our clients fall below the 300% income poverty guidelines; 45% of those fall below the 100% level.

We do not believe these fees have had a negative effect on numbers signed up for transports. We have even waived fees for those having difficulties with payments or large number of owned pets just to make sure there were no unwanted litters. Our donors make this possible.

Our Programs

1. **Spay/Neuter** remains our core program and continues to provide low/no cost services in large numbers. Operation Pit recognizes that this breed remains high-risk for euthanasia.
2. Our **ALTERnate Transport** program continues to play an important part in helping those owners with no or unreliable transport. Volunteers go to the home, register the

pets, pick them up the day of transport, and return them the following day with proper care instructions. In 2017, there were 38 pets all over the county that were served through **ALTERnate Transport**. We are examining ways to expand this service.

3. **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)** is still going strong. 626 free roaming cats were TNR'd in 2017. Grants from PetSmart Charities and Bernice Barbour have helped cover surgery costs for **TNR**. The challenge for 2018 is to get our **TNR** van replaced with a newer (but used) van. We just managed to get re-licensed again after major repairs to the catalytic converters. Unfortunately, the van, which now has close to 200,000 miles, has been getting harder to drive and will need to be replaced in 2018 for the safety of our volunteers and the cats that are being shuttled back and forth.
4. Our **Kittens2Barns** program is still helping to rehome some of these “community cats” to safe settings. Forty-two were placed at 16 sites in 2017, bringing the project’s total to 162 since it began in 2012.
5. ‘**Animal Wellness Programs**’ was added to our mission statement in 2014. Many of the pets returning from our surgery transports had fleas/ticks marked on their papers. Fleas and ticks were overwhelming in 2017, and we had a hard time keeping up with the demand. **BUT WE DID**. Worming and tapeworm medications are on hand, at all times.

Our program helps up to one-third of Haywood County’s pets.

We are still working on grants to fund our **Wellness Program** with several of the county’s vets. Currently, two veterinarian clinics have funds at their disposal to cover the cost of the office visit for those not able to afford this expense and to help towards needed services/medications. We were intrigued that it has proven not to be as expensive as originally thought. The vets who have partnered with us to provide this assistance are effectively determining which client really needs help or not. We are maintaining the data gathered over the last two years, which trace medical needs for this pet population. Once analyzed, we will submit it to grantors wishing to promote pet wellness.

6. **Microchips** provide permanent identification (ID) and can reduce the number of lost pets staying overnight or longer in the shelter. Shelter personnel are required to scan dogs and cats for a microchip at the time of impoundment. When found, officers can call and inform the owner for an immediate and happy reunion.

We held two **Microchip clinics** at the office and one at Community Pet Day in the summer, reducing the cost to \$10 for that event. North Carolina Animal Welfare law requires that “(N)either the employee nor the veterinarian technician may perform any act producing an irreversible change in the animal” thus a veterinarian must inject the microchip, or a vet must be on the premises as a vet tech does the procedure.

Scheduling and paying for an attending vet has been difficult. Now, thanks to **Bissell Pet Foundation**, we have received a grant for 1,000 free microchips: 700 to be used for those having surgery through our program and 300 for special events. This should provide

incentive for pet owners to sign up for spay/neuters in 2018. These funds will free up cash that we can use to provide payment for a vet to be on hand at microchip events. The remaining 300 chips go to pets that are not served through our Spay/Neuter Program.

Changes affecting Our Programs

The new **Haywood County Animal Shelter** will open in 2018. Members of Haywood Spay/Neuter played a valuable part in getting this shelter approved in 2016 by the county commissioners and with the facility's design and construction in 2017. A role for Haywood Spay/Neuter in the new shelter will be determined once the Adoption Center and intake shelter is up and running.

The 2017 tax law regarding charitable deductions may result in donation downturns for non-profits like Haywood Spay/Neuter. Most of our donors have been supporting our programs consistently over the years. As a result, **we are counting on our donors to stick with us as they have done in the past AND on new donors to recognize our value and support our work.**

Our Donors Are Terrific

Without our devoted donors' steadfast support, our pet overpopulation problem would be tremendous. It is not bragging to say that the current live release rate of 94% at the Haywood County NC shelter is possible by our program successes: by the reduction of unwanted litters and pets entering the shelter.

The Following Foundations and Businesses Provided Significant Support in 2017

- Bernice Barbour Foundation
- Grace Episcopal Church in the Mountains
- PetCo Foundation
- PetSmart Charities Foundation

**Thanks to all of you for your support of our animal welfare efforts in Haywood County.
Every cent makes a difference.**

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