



HAYWOOD SPAY/NEUTER

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

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2018 Annual Program Report

Introduction

In 2018 1,390 cats and dogs were fixed through Haywood Spay/Neuter. While the number we served was lower than previous years, fewer pets, especially dogs, entered the shelter during 2018. 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 has been a prime reason that fewer pets are entering the shelter. _

We firmly believe in our mission to provide low-cost spay/neuter surgeries. Working in partnership with the ASPCA Humane Alliance Spay/Neuter Clinic in Asheville, we were able to provide surgeries for 413 owned cats, 394 community cats and 472 dogs this year. Fees for our services were kept at the 2017 rate of \$10 for those clients under 100% of the US Federal Poverty Guidelines; \$20 for those between 100 to 300% of those guidelines and \$60 for all others. Again, 81% of our clients fall below the 300% income poverty guidelines with 45% of those below the 100% level. We do not believe these fees have had a negative effect on the number of clients signing up for transports. In situations of extreme difficulty, we waive these fees. Especially for those clients with many pets. Our priority is always to keep the number of unwanted litters down. Our donors make this possible.

Programs

Spay/Neuter remains our core program that continues to provide low/no cost services in large numbers. Since 2003 we have provided 24,493 spay/neuter surgeries.

Animal Wellness Program 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 2018 and we had a hard time keeping up with the demand, BUT we did. Low cost flea, tick, and de-worming medicines are always on hand, and have helped not just the clients going through our spay/neuter program, but all residents of Haywood County.

Also part of our **Wellness Program** is an urgent care fund that is maintained with a local county vet. This veterinary clinic uses the funds on hand to cover the cost of the office visit for those not able to afford this expense and to help towards needed services/medications. The vet that is partnering with us to provide this assistance is effectively determining which client really needs help or not. We are maintaining the data gathered over the last three years which traces medical needs for this pet population. Once analyzed, we plan on submitting it to grantors wishing to promote pet wellness.

Our **Microchip Program** provides low-cost microchips. Microchips are permanent identification (IDs) that 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.

Through grants and donations, we were able to hold two **Microchip** clinics at the office and one at Community Pet Day in the summer. Thanks to the **Bissell Pet Foundation**, we received a grant for 1,000 free microchips: 700 to be used for those having surgery through our program and 300 for special events. We believe that offering free microchips provided incentive for pet owners to sign up for spay/neuters in 2018, thus increasing our surgery numbers.

The new **Haywood County Animal Shelter** opened in 2018. Members of Haywood Spay/Neuter have played a valuable part in getting this shelter approved by the county commissioners in 2016 and worked with them as the building was being erected during 2017. Haywood Spay/Neuter's presence at the new shelter is very important. When they are inundated with kittens, people can adopt early and sign them up through us to get fixed at 4 months old. Haywood Spay/Neuter follows up on that paperwork and gets them scheduled, therefore letting young kittens find homes.

Our Donors Are Terrific

Although the new 2018 tax laws regarding charitable deductions created some concern, we saw only a small downturn in donations. Most of our donors have been supporting our programs consistently over the years and therefore, we are counting on our donors to stick with us as they have done in the past.

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 shelter would not have been possible had the numbers of pets entering the shelter not been reduced.

The Following Foundations and Churches Also Provided Significant Support in 2018

- Bernice Barbour Foundation
- Grace Episcopal Church in the Mountains
- Bissell Pet Foundation

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

Haywood Animal Welfare Association, Inc. is a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit. Gifts to Haywood Spay/Neuter are tax deductible under the IRS rules regarding gifts to charities. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the Charitable Solicitation Licensing Section at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the state.