



# HAYWOOD SPAY/NEUTER

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

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## 2020 Annual Program Report

### Introduction

**In 2020 620 cats and dogs were fixed through Haywood Spay/Neuter.** The number we served was lower than previous years due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance stopped doing surgeries. Waynesville deemed our nonprofit as an essential business. During those three months we continued to remain open to provide flea, tick, and deworming medicines at an affordable price to our clients that could not afford them otherwise.

Our one, part time employee worked three days a week to keep those reduced rate meds available to our clients who needed them for their pets. We were not able to do any spay or neuter transports as the ASPCA had closed their doors for the duration of the pandemic. We resumed doing surgeries in late August with new COVID precautions in place.

During the COVID pandemic we held three Pet Food Give-Aways in partnership with the ASPCA for our clients and members of the community that needed help with their pet food.

Haywood Spay/Neuter was thrilled to start 2020 off with two new grants. One from the Bernice Barbour Foundation that will assist approximately 100 clients with spay and neuter fees. We are immensely proud to be included once again as a grantee in their exclusive circle. We also received a grant from the Bissell Pet Foundation to aid in yet another 100 surgeries. Bissell also granted us 600 free microchips to be administered to every pet that is spayed or neutered through us. This donation will also enable us to hold two free microchip clinics at some point after the COVID-19 scare is over. While we do spay and neuter over 1200 pets a year having these two grants for 200 dogs or cats is helpful to get us started! We work extremely hard to remain a pet charity that grantors want to work with.

We passionately 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 still able to provide surgeries for 620 owner owned cats and dogs during the pandemic.

Fees for our services were kept at the 2019 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, 80% of our clients fall below the 300% income poverty guidelines with 35% 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 25,232 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 2019 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.

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.

## **Our Donors Are Terrific**

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 Also Provided Significant Support in 2020**

- Bernice Barbour Foundation
- Bissell Pet Foundation

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