
PROJECT PROPOSAL:

Spay and Neuter Education

Prepared for: Two Mauds Inc.

Prepared by: Giles County Animal Rescue

Date: April 29, 2014



Executive Summary

Statement of Need

The global problem of pet overpopulation is mirrored in Giles County, Virginia. However, not everyone is informed about the scope of the problem or how to personally solve the issue. Because of this, it is necessary to educate the public on the importance of spaying and neutering their pets in Giles County.

Project Description

Giles County Animal Rescue will educate public, elementary school children of the importance of spaying and neutering. This two-year program will reach 400 students per year, and by extension, their families about the importance of this practice. The program will involve one-hour class sessions involving discussions and interactive coloring book activities. Two volunteers will teach the program and regularly evaluate the success of the classes based on student engagement and feedback from teachers.

Budget

Giles County Animal Rescue is seeking \$1,500 to implement this two-year educational program. The budget outlines the specific costs of our program, specifically the cost of printing educational materials, including an interactive coloring book and informational flyers. The budget is based on the two-year plan described in the project description and details the totals for both years.

About Giles County Animal Rescue

Giles Animal Rescue, Inc. was founded in 1999 and is a 501(c)(3) charity run entirely by volunteers. We have a history of assisting low-income families with spaying and neutering their pets, and we frequently educate the community on pet overpopulation, adoption, and animal welfare. Our organizational mission is to help homeless, neglected, and abused pets in our county. We hope that this program will be just one more step in fulfilling that mission.

Introduction

Giles County Animal Rescue plans to educate elementary school students about spaying and neutering animals. Education plays a crucial role in our mission because the students will learn lifelong lessons about animal population control. This effort will ultimately lead to reduced euthanasia rates and an increase in the number of animals rescued.

Statement of Need

Many children adore their household pet—their dog or cat often grows up with them and serves as companion, confidant, and best friend. However, most children don't realize that one dog that is not spayed/neutered, together with its offspring, can produce 67,000 puppies in six years. Even worse, one cat and its offspring can produce 370,000 kittens over the same time period.¹

Despite the fact that 62 percent of American households have at least one pet (2012), there are still a large number of animals without homes. In fact, approximately 2.7 million pets are euthanized in shelters every year.² Animals that aren't in shelters or homes are living on the streets, causing more problems for communities. Spaying and neutering animals can be an effective way to steadily reduce the number of animals who contribute to these problems.

It's critical that we educate the public about this Malthusian growth rate. One particularly effective way to achieve this objective is to educate young children about the facts of pet overpopulation and the importance of spaying or neutering. Educating elementary school children in Giles County is essential to reinforce the area's efforts against pet overpopulation. By reaching children first, we can ultimately reach entire families and effectively spread knowledge about spaying and neutering household pets.

¹ Statistics found at www.peta.org

² Statistics found at www.humansociety.org

Project Description

Goals and Objectives

Our educational program will teach local children about the importance of spaying and neutering animals. By implementing this program, Giles County Animal Rescue has the potential to increase awareness about pet overpopulation and the importance of spaying or neutering. The program has the following objectives:

- To reach approximately 400 students per year by visiting local elementary school classes, specifically grades 2-4
- To teach these students about pet overpopulation and the importance of spaying and neutering pets

Methods

During this program, Giles County Animal Rescue will interact with three elementary and middle schools in the area: Eastern Elementary/Middle, Macy McClauthery Elementary/Middle, and Narrows Elementary/Middle. Two Giles County Animal Rescue volunteers will contact the schools and arrange to meet with the school board for approval. Upon approval, the volunteers will coordinate directly with the teachers at each school to schedule class visits for the program.

Volunteers will schedule dates for the 2014-2015 school year, during which time they will teach approximately 400 students (including two grade levels from each school). The classes are approximately one hour in length; volunteers will lead class discussions about spaying and neutering pets and employ coloring book activities to explain and reinforce the importance of animal population control. We will span this project over two years in order to reach the most students in the area. Ideally, the program will reach second and third graders one year, followed by third and fourth the next year. This method ensures that no students are in the same program twice.

Staffing and Administration

The staffing for this project will be entirely volunteers. Two volunteers will be responsible for coordinating with schools, preparing and printing coloring book materials, and teaching the students during each one-hour class period. All of our volunteers are qualified and knowledgeable about the program topics.

Evaluation

Giles County Animal Rescue volunteers will regularly measure the success of the program in several ways:

- By measuring student engagement during the class sessions
- By talking with teachers regularly about how to improve the program
- By following the spay and neuter rates in the county before and after the program's implementation

These evaluation measures will be key to our adjustments of the program over the two-year period. For example, if the students are not engaging with our volunteers or understanding the subject, we will adjust the program delivery as needed. The rates of fixing the county's pets depend on multiple factors: cost, geographic location relative to a veterinarian's office time to make this procedure possible, and an individual's understanding of the prudence of spaying and neutering. We expect to see a change in the number of animals being fixed, but the question of the program's success will turn on the success of educating children with pets and the action of those families.

Project Budget

Grant Period

September 2014-June 2015; September 2015-June 2016³

Overview

This budget is based on a two-year time period for our spay and neuter education program. By stretching the program over two years, our volunteers can reach a much larger number of students. The primary material for the program is a coloring book, which will be distributed to 400 students per year. Also, we will print and post informational flyers about the program in local stores, offices, and community centers.

Direct Costs	Year 1	Year 2	Total
Coloring books: Paper, ink, and printing charges	\$750	\$750	\$1,500
Informational Flyers	\$25	\$25	\$50
			Total Budget: \$1,550
Income (In-kind Donations)	Year 1	Year 2	Total
Volunteer hours (including two volunteers per year)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Community Events ⁴	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
Recycling Program (Cellphones and Ink Cartridges) ⁵	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
CVC Campaign ⁶	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
			Total Revenue: \$4,000

³ These time periods are based on the Giles County school system.

⁴ Community Events—Festivals, craft shows, yard sales, private auctions

⁵ Recycling Program—Sell cellphones and ink cartridges for funds

⁶ CVC Campaign-- \$15.00 donation per pet friendly license plate

About Giles County Animal Rescue

Giles County Animal Rescue is a 501(c)(3) charity run entirely by volunteers. The mission of our organization is to help homeless, neglected and abused animals in Giles County, Va. We also aim to educate the public about spay and neuter with the hopes of preventing animal overpopulation.

Our volunteers are very experienced on the topic of spay and neuter and well prepared to teach this program. We have a history of assisting low-income families with spaying and neutering their pets, and we frequently educate the community on pet overpopulation, adoption, and animal welfare. We also work with local veterinarians on a regular basis to help provide low-cost spay or neuter. In addition, we continue to temporarily house as many pets as possible to address Giles County's pet overpopulation.

Prior to June 2013, our volunteers took pictures of the animals at the shelter and published the photos in local newspapers and various social media outlets in hopes of increasing public interest in the pets available for adoption. In addition, we placed as many shelter pets as we could with other approved rescue groups in more populated areas so that there was a greater possibility of these pets to be adopted. In order to get these animals to other shelters, we needed to organize, finance and provide transportation. With our help, we saved over 85 percent of dogs each year and nearly 50 percent of cats (in 2012).

Our president, Christine Link-Owens, is a senior research specialist at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI). In this position, she is responsible for conducting transportation research as well as working with staff and subjects to analyze data.

[Insert one or two more sentences here about board members and volunteers]

To learn more about us, feel free to visit our website at <http://www.gilesanimalrescue.org>.

Conclusion

We feel confident that this program will effectively educate children about the importance of spaying and neutering, ultimately ensuring that more pets in the area are spayed and neutered. We hope our educational outreach program will make children more informed about the importance of spaying and neutering their pets. If we are successful, we can continue to educate other sectors of the public about the importance of spaying and neutering, causing a ripple effect that results in lower euthanasia rates in our county. We hope that your foundation sees our closely aligned goals as a promising step in the right direction for animal welfare.

If you would like more information, please contact us at (540) 922-3958 or gilescounty@gmail.com. Thank you for taking the time to consider our program.