



HAYWOOD SPAY/NEUTER 2016 Annual Report

Introduction

We did not meet our goal of 1,800 in 2016 as only 1636 cats and dogs were fixed through Haywood Spay/Neuter. Lower numbers but also lower numbers entering the shelter. The animal shelter animal intake has been steadily declining, the euthanasia rate has too. Our efforts to increase the number of pets that are neutered in the county has resulted in fewer pets actually needing to be neutered.

Through our partnership with Humane Alliance Spay/Neuter Clinic in Asheville, we provided spay/neuter surgeries for 384 owned cats, 691 community cats and 550 dogs along with 11 local vet vouchers.

With changes in the NC Spay/Neuter Refund Program in late 2015 allowing us to only apply for refunds from those clients below the 100% US Federal Poverty Guidelines and not all those below 300%; we had to change our surgery fee structure. Fees are \$10, \$20 or \$60 based on income. 91% of our clients fall into the \$10-\$20 range. We do not believe this has had a major effect on the lower number of surgeries performed in 2016, but let's face it, many of our clients have problems even coming up with the \$10 fee. Some cases, HS/N had done for \$0 just to make sure no unwanted litters showed up at the county shelter. Our donors make this possible.

Programs

Spay/Neuter remains our core program that continues to provide low/no cost services in large numbers. We along with other groups tried to persuade the NC legislature to change the NC State Spay/Neuter Refund program back to 300% to no avail.

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.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) The county and the shelter now know that TNR works. When we started TNR in earnest in 2009, the shelter cat intake was 1811 with 1147 euthanized. In 2016 shelter intake was 692 with 48 euthanized. A decrease from 63% to 7% in 8 years! Grants from Best Friends and Petco covered the basic surgery costs of our TNR cats.

Our Kittens2Barns program is helping place some of these "community cats" in safe settings. 18 were placed in 2016, bringing the project's total to 120.

Animal Wellness was added to our mission statement in 2014. Many of the pets returning from our surgery transports had fleas/ticks marked on their papers. In addition to worming medicine and flea meds, HS/N added flea tick medications for dogs and cats and also tape worm. Thus, when an

owner picks up his pet on transport day, we point out the vet's comments re these parasite and refer them to our office to pick up these low cost generics. After using our flea medication on her cat, one owner came back and said "Her cat's fur never looked so good".

These medications are sold at our cost:

- \$3.00 per flea pill for under 25 lbs and \$6.00 above 25 lbs
- \$10 per Advantix for dogs
- \$8 for Frontline Plus for cats
- \$3.00 for dewormer
- \$3-\$5.00 for tape medicine depending on weight

We are still working on grants to fund our Wellness Program with several of the county's vets. Currently, three veterinarians have some funds at their disposal to cover the cost of the office visit for those not able to afford it and also help towards needed services/medications. We are gathering data from this program to submit to possible grantors.

Microchips provide permanent identification (ID) and can reduce the number of lost pets staying overnight or longer in the shelter. Shelter personnel 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 ran one microchip clinic in 2016. We also provide the owners with the opportunity to purchase a low-cost (\$15) microchip when their pet receives spay/neuter services. However, our clientele typically struggle with their small co-payments for service and decline this added expense.

In 2016 HS/N switched from Home Again to Found Animal.org. The cost was cheaper and the pet owners are no longer bombarded with letters to renew their "membership". The membership consisted of a few extras like alerts etc., but did not affect the main purpose of the microchip – owner notified if animal is lost. Found Animal.org is a non profit microchip service and one the owner has total control over.

In 2017 we plan on doing more microchip clinics using our two "vet" techs to insert the chips.

Our Donors Are Terrific

Haywood Spay/Neuter has a loyal group of individual donors who provide us with the funds we need to "Git 'em Fixed". Without them, our pet overpopulation problem would be tremendous.

The Follow Foundations and Businesses also Provided Support

Best Friends

Bissell Pet Foundation

Grace Episcopal Church in the Mountains

Petco Foundation

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