

To Whom it May Concern,

Last Chance Animal Rescue operates two low cost, high quality, high volume spay neuter clinics. We have been the grateful recipient of several of the Maryland Department of Agriculture grants. I just wanted to tell you a story or two to emphasize the importance to real people of these grants.

I have spoken to countless pet owners about caring for their pets. Proper care includes spay and neuter of the pet. Often the sources of new pets are the kitten or cat that wanders up to them in the back yard. Or, almost as frequently, their adult son or daughter gets a pet and moves back in with their parents and then moves out leaving the pet for the elderly parents or grandparents to care for. When they start pricing the actual care, reality sets in, caring for a pet is not cheap, even at our low-cost facility. My point is, when I tell them we have a grant that can get their pet altered for free, they are so relieved they start to cry. Since COVID, I don't get so many hugs, but prior to COVID I got so many hugs because they were so relieved.

There is a difference between a person looking for a deal and a person on a fixed income who doesn't know how to afford their heart medication, or sometimes even their food and still find a way to take care of their pet. My testimony isn't about the animals, everyone knows how good this grant process is for the animals. I want to share how valuable it is for the truly income disadvantaged, like the older person in a thread-bear coat or someone using a taxi to come because they do not have a car. A couple who used this grant live in the Indian Head area. They had a female bully breed that their son dumped on them. They had grown to love her. The husband had lost his job; his diabetes was so bad he had to have a leg amputated. He was on disability and she didn't work. On the first vet visit, the dog had a skin infection which we treated for free. On the next vet visit, the couple had lost their car and we provided volunteer transportation. Their dog was sickly, our vet suspected pyometria which is an infected uterus. They needed this poor pup spayed. I cannot explain how grateful they were that, because of this grant we were able to spay and vaccinate this dog for free. They were able to keep one little part of their life intact. For this I am forever grateful, as are the recipients of this grant.

Cynthia Sharpley, Executive Director

Last Chance Animal Rescue

[www.lastchanceanimalrescue.org](http://www.lastchanceanimalrescue.org)

[www.thespayspot.org](http://www.thespayspot.org)

[www.facebook.com/LCARMMD](https://www.facebook.com/LCARMMD)

CFC# 69822

For low cost spay/neuter call 301-254-8151