



## **MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS**

**PO Box 10411  
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January 13, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee  
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.  
Re: Department of Agriculture – Spay/ Neuter Fund - Extension and Report – HB 191 -Support

Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, members of the Environment & Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before to you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Environment & Transportation Committee vote favorably for Department of Agriculture – Spay/ Neuter Fund Extension and Report – HB 191.

Maryland Votes for Animals worked on the legislation that passed in 2013 establishing The Spay and Neuter Grants Program. The goal of the program is to reduce shelter intake and euthanasia rates in Maryland. Using fees collected from pet food companies doing business in Maryland, the program provides competitive grants to local governments and non-profit animal welfare organizations for spay and neuter services of dogs and cats owned by low income residents and for colonies of feral cats.

The sunset for this program is September 30, 2022. First and foremost, Maryland Votes for Animals would like to ensure that this lifesaving program continues without interruption - and with as many funds as possible to approve grants. As a member of the Spay and Neuter Advisory Board, I participate in the process to approve grants from the Spay/Neuter Fund. This program has been very successful at providing free spay and neuter services to the pets of low income Marylanders and Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) for feral cat colonies. Therefore, I would be in favor of having a report from the Maryland Department of Agriculture to the Maryland General Assembly covering the years that the program has been in force to evaluate the distribution of funds for grants as well as the future amounts and structure of fees charged to pet food companies.

I want to thank Delegate Lehman for her commitment to this program and ask for a favorable report of HB 191.