

Good Morning,

My name is Katherine Evans. I am the president of Rude Ranch Animal Rescue. I am testifying in Support of HB 191: Department of Agriculture Spay & Neuter Fund.

Rude Ranch is a non-profit organization established in 2001. In the past 19 years Rude Ranch found homes for more than 5,000 animals and facilitated the veterinary care and placement for more than 10,000 animals.

In October, 2012 we opened the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, a regional a high quality, high volume low cost spay/neuter clinic, centrally located in Davidsonville. The clinic currently performs 7,400 - 8,000 surgeries per year and has provided over 70,000 spay/neuter surgeries since opening.

Rude Ranch and the Spay Spa has utilized the State Spay Neuter fund to provide in excess of 10,000 spay/neuter surgeries and rabies vaccines to animals belonging to many low income and under funded individuals, families, senior citizens and disabled veterans through out Anne Arundel County. Without this program many of these animals would have never received any vaccines, or seen by a vet during their lifetimes. Likewise, these animals would have produced many litters of unwanted and homeless puppies and kittens, adding to the animal over population problem. Most of these animals would have been surrendered to local animal controls and other organizations significantly adding to the costs of running these agencies.

Since this program began in 2014, euthanasias across the state have decreased 55%. Overall animal intake has dropped 17%. Likewise, calls for help to animal based government agencies and private organizations like mine are have been greatly reduced.

While my group has been able to accomplish much and help many animals under the state fund, unfortunately there are always many more people and animals that need our help. One of our biggest restraints to helping more animals is the need for additional funding from the state spay/neuter grant.

On behalf of Rude Ranch, the Spay Spa & Neuter Nook and the animals of Maryland, I want to encourage you to support and pass HB 191. Thankyou for letting me testify today. Please contact me if you would like additional information or a tour of our facilites,

