



**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

In Attendance:

Sheri Gustafson
Kyle Baron
Michael Cahill
Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore
Kara Holmquist
Deanna Gualtieri
Katherine Foote

This open meeting was held virtually over the ZOOM platform. A PowerPoint presentation was shown over ZOOM to all attendees.

I. Fund Totals and Expenditures

Sheri explained the current Fund's revenue totals. The Fund has an unexpended balance of \$592,970 as of 5/15/2024. The revenue intake in CY24 to date was \$408,464. Sheri presented the FY numbers, in FY24 the Fund took in \$601,190. Since inception in 2012, the Fund has taken in \$4,969,582. \$4,290,873 has been from tax donations/ online donations/ grants, \$3,709 from interest, and \$675,000 from line items in the state budget.

II. Budget and End of Year Report

Sheri presented a spending breakdown from Fund inception to date. To date, the Fund's spending was in the following distributions: \$3,075,891 (71%) for veterinary services, \$122,170 (3%) for ACO training, \$1,110,562 (26%) for administration, \$12,285 (<1%) for marketing, and there is currently a \$572,800 surplus in the Fund that will be factored into the 2024 spending.

Sheri presented the Fund's CY24 approved budget. CY24 approved budget of \$658,020 had the following allocations: 73% for veterinary services, 3% for ACO training, 25% for administration, and less than 1% for marketing. The budget planned to utilize \$168,020 in rollover revenue from CY23. Sheri recommended no change to the CY24 approved budget now that tax season numbers have been reported.

The Advisory Committee (AC) members had no objections to keeping the CY24 budget as written.

III. FY24 Line Item/ Grants

Sheri stated that the FY23 budget line item of \$100,000 is 100% spent and that the FY24 budget line item of \$100,000 is 100% spent, The FY24 budget line item is fully spent to help an additional 400 surgeries with the average cost of \$250.

Sheri presented that in 2022 The Stanton Foundation gave the Fund 1 grant totaling \$75,000. In 2023, The Stanton Foundation gave the Fund 2 grants totaling \$105,00, one of which was specifically for canines needing emergency services.

In May 2024, The Stanton Foundation gave the Fund another grant of \$75,000, designated to helping canines in municipal shelters and at 501c3 organizations.

IV. Spay/Neuter Voucher Program

a. Animal Eligibility Updates

Sheri presented that the Fund had discovered some misuse of the voucher program. It was found that a couple of shelters/rescues were asking ACOs to take in owner surrenders to obtain priority vouchers for spay/neuter. The department discussed this matter promptly after the misuse was verified and decided that animals that ended up in ACO care through voluntary owner surrenders were no longer eligible for voucher assistance unless special circumstances were stated and approved by the Fund. Mike Cahill explained that dogs and cats that have been voluntarily surrendered to a municipal animal control facility for rehoming do not qualify under the mission of preventing animal homelessness. Since they are becoming voluntarily homeless. The Committee had no objections to the voucher eligibility change.

b. Numbers

Sheri presented that the Fund has helped 20,762 animals to date equaling 3.1 million spent. In CY24 the Fund has had 664 vouchers redeemed so far and has an additional 753 vouchers outstanding equaling \$137,175.

Sheri presented a slide on CY24 voucher trends. To date in CY24 1,138 vouchers have been issued and disseminated accordingly: 35.7% to waitlist animals, 26.1% to ACO animals, 24.2% to animals at voucher day clinics, and 13.9% to animals in emergency/priority situations. In 2024, 436 vouchers had been redeemed to date in the following categories: 49.8% at voucher day clinics, 22.4% for animals in ACO care, 15.7% for animals in emergency/priority situations, and 12.1% for animals on the waitlist.

The Committee discussed the trends. Sheri mentioned that the most likely reason for the low waitlist redemption rate is due to the long wait times for services. Sheri stated that the Fund has also seen a large increase in applications that state that they have gotten their pets from a private party. Mike Cahill suggested that we remove the category private party from the application and leave the question open-ended.

c. Wait List

Sheri gave an update on the voucher wait list and tracking system. In January 2024, the Fund created a waitlist tracking system so that applicants can watch a webpage that illustrates our voucher flow and how long the wait could be for them. Kyle presented that the current waitlist has 730 plus animals waiting for assistance, that vouchers are currently being issued from applications received in August 2023, and that the rate of issue is approximately \$60,000 in vouchers monthly.

d. Providers

Kyle stated that the program recently welcomed Friends of Franklin County Regional as a municipal partner, Berkshire Humane Society, and Mill Valley Veterinary.

Sheri presented the Voucher Program's veterinary rates. The Fund raised reimbursement rates on July 1st, 2023. All rate tiers increased by \$50. The current tier 1 rate is \$150 for a male cat, tier II rate for female cats is \$200, tier III rate for a small male dog is \$250, tier IV rate for small female dogs and large male dogs is \$300 and tier V rate for large female dogs is \$350.

Sheri presented a graph showing spay/neuter rates from various low-cost and subsidized programs across New England. Sheri said that after reviewing the data she felt that the Fund should increase dog spay/neuter reimbursement rates and that cat reimbursement rates should stay at the current rates. Sheri proposed that all canine reimbursement rates be raised by \$50 for FY25 and that all other reimbursement rates that were increased in 2023 remain the same. Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore stated that she agrees with the veterinary increase and that current reimbursement levels have prevented some veterinarians from joining the program. The Committee approved raising all canine reimbursement tiers by \$50 effective July 1st, 2024. Sheri stated that rates will continue to be evaluated annually or as needed.

V. Promotions/Events/Marketing

Sheri stated that once the reimbursement rates take effect, the Fund will work on promotional campaigns, to get the word out to potential providers and partners.

VI. Animal Control Officer Training

a. 2024 ACO Designations

Sheri presented that for the 2024 designation mailing, the Fund revamped the designation portal and designation form. Sheri reported that these changes seemed to increase municipal compliance from 50% in 2023 to 82% so far in 2024.

b. ACO Core Training

Sheri said the Fund plans to have two sessions of the Core Competencies Training in 2024. Session I will be Sept. 23rd and Sept 30th in Central MA and Session II will be Oct. 6th and 7th in Eastern MA. Virtual attendance will be an option if needed.

Sheri plans to create a new Core final exam video and update the MA Animal Laws Book before the Core.

c. RFR Update

Sheri stated that Commbuys has a new system, so training contracts have been delayed but that she hopes to be able to send them soon.

d. CE Training

Sheri reported that after July 1 2024, ACO will be required to use the CE Submission portal and that the next round of CE compliance letters will be emailed to ACO in Summer 2024.

**The Committee decides to set the next MAF AC meeting date of:
Wednesday, September 18th at 10:30 AM**



Advisory Committee Meeting

5/15/24 Bring on the Summer



AGENDA



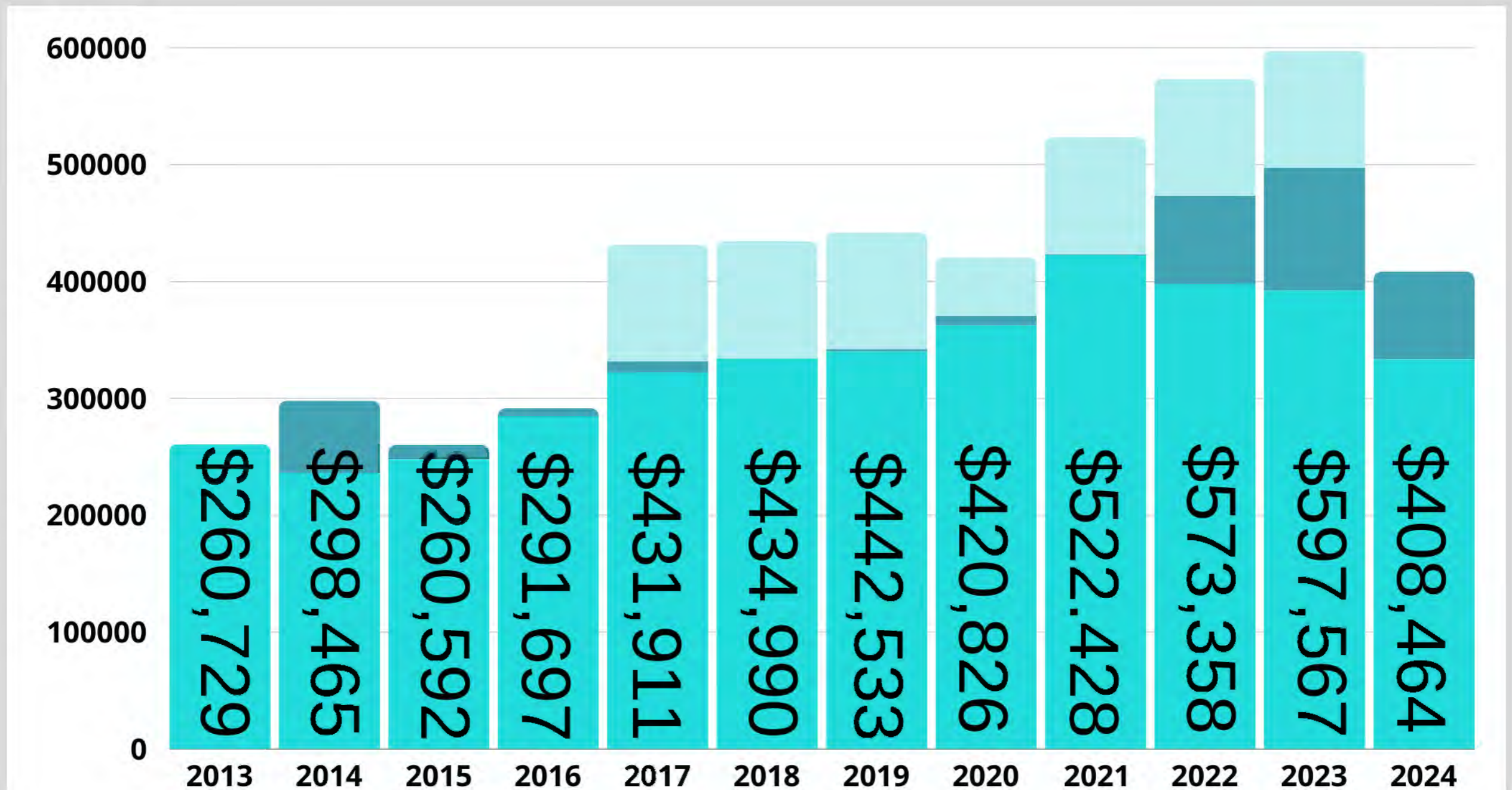
- I. Fund Totals and Expenditures**
 - A. Review of Balance/ Budget**
- II. Budget / 2024 Tax Donations**
- III. FY24 Line Item/ Grants**
- IV. Spay/Neuter Voucher Program**
 - A. Animal Eligibility**
 - B. Numbers**
 - C. Wait List**
 - C. Providers**

- V. Promotions/ Events/ Marketing**
- VI. Animal Control Officers**
 - A. 2024 ACO Designations**
 - B. 2024 Core Training**
 - C. RFR Update**
 - D. CE Training**

FUND TOTALS AND EXPENDITURES



Unexpended balance as of 5/15/24 \$592,970



FUND TOTALS AND EXPENDITURES



How our donations have grown....

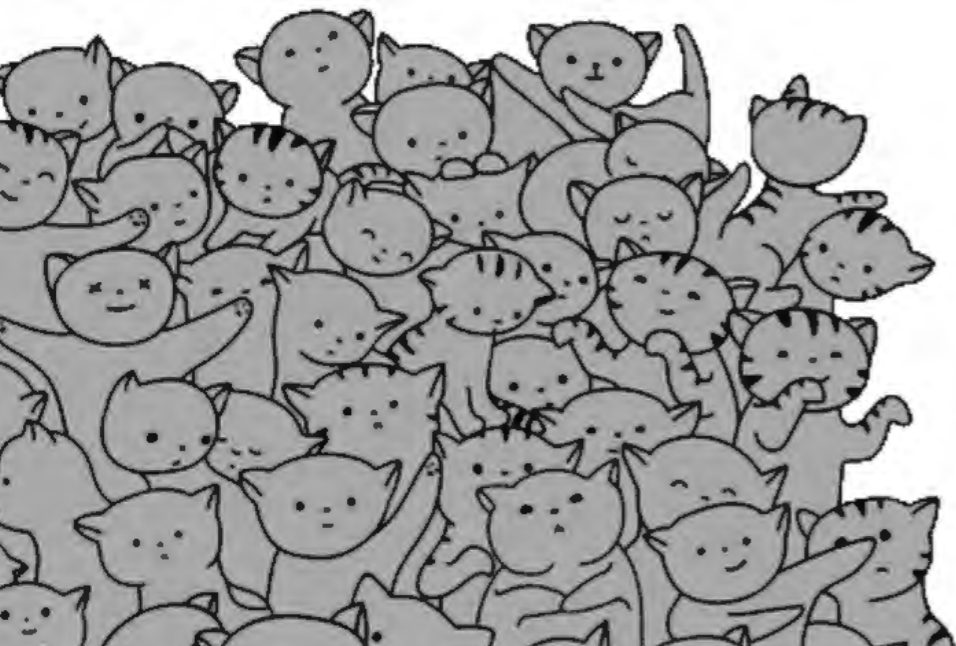


	\$ 4,969,582.99				
	total donations/grants	interest	line item	tax donations	online/grants
2013	\$ 260,729.55	0		\$ 260,670.55	59
2014	\$ 298,086.38	378.73		\$ 235,995.38	62091
2015	\$ 260,303.06	289.6		\$ 247,689.33	12613.73
2016	\$ 291,494.16	123.15		\$ 284,828.37	6665.79
2017	\$ 331,685.67	225.98	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 322,220.04	9465.63
2018	\$ 334,590.90	399.44	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 334,290.90	300
2019	\$ 342,064.72	469.06	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 340,150.72	1914
2020	\$ 370,686.42	139.68	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 362,536.42	8150
2021	\$ 422,405.32	22.89	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 421,415.32	990
2022	\$ 472,994.17	364.27	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 397,299.17	75,695
2023	\$ 497,567.70	1098.25	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 392,567.70	105,000
2024	\$ 408,265.75	198.14		\$ 333,140.75	75,125
	\$ 4,290,873.80	\$ 3,709.19	\$ 675,000.00	\$ 3,932,804.65	\$ 282,944.15
4,969,582.99	86%	<.0001%	14%		

FUND TOTALS AND EXPENDITURES



Revenue to date \$4,893,708	% of Spent	Expenses to Date \$4,320,908
Veterinary	71%	\$3,075,891.14
ACO Training	3%	\$122,170.00
Administration	26%	\$1,110,562.14
Marketing	<1%	\$12,284.05
Surplus	12%	\$572,800.00



**Over 26,700 vouchers
have been distributed.**





Proposed 2024 Budget

\$658,020= \$420,000 from 2024 Donations

\$100,000 FY25 Line Item

\$168,000 from rollover from 2023

* would leave a buffer of approx. \$280,000
in the Fund

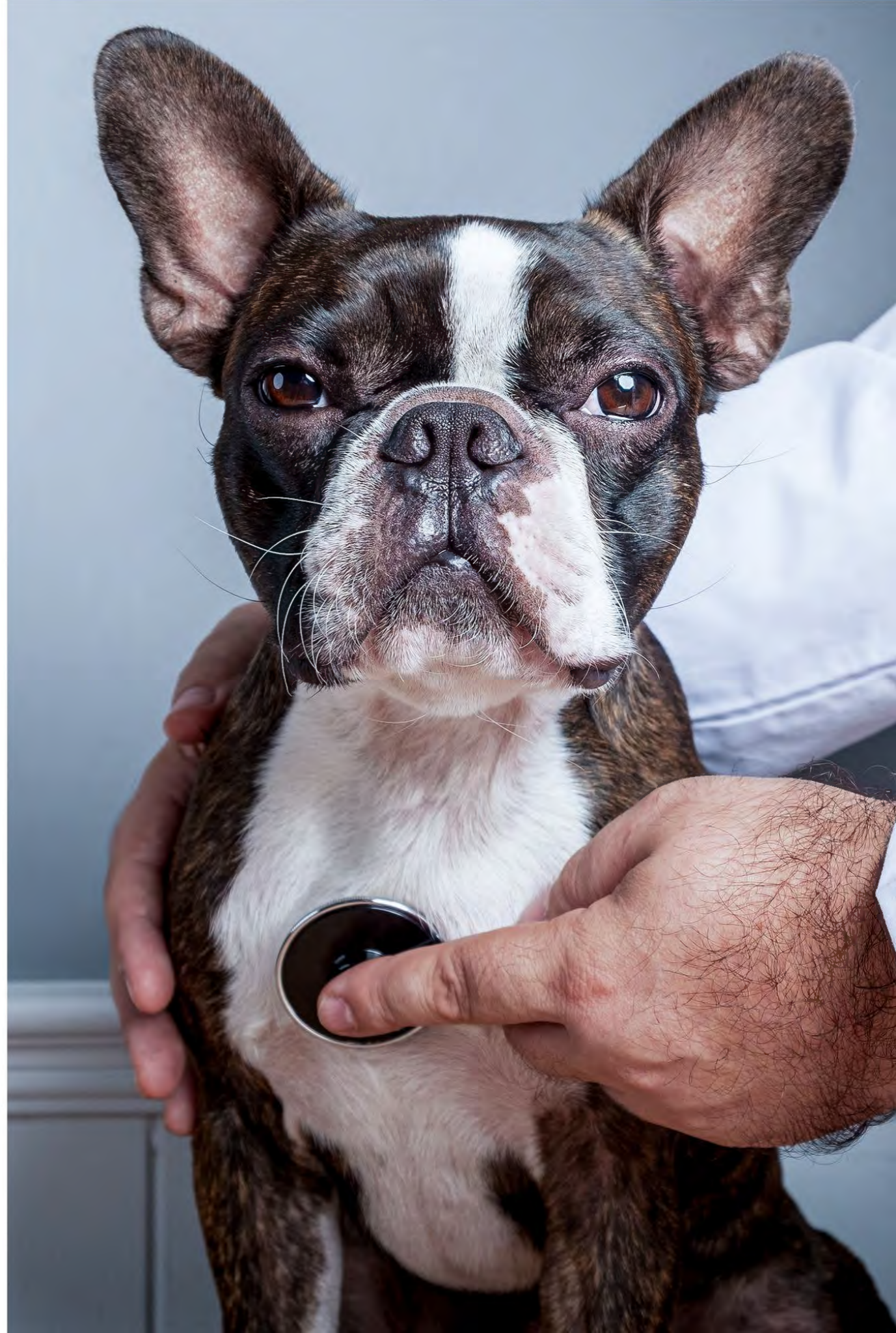
APPROVED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 1.10.24

2024 Proposed Budget	Estimated Revenue \$550,000	Proposed Expenses \$688,020
Veterinary	73%	\$500,000
ACO Training	3%	\$21,920
Administration	25%	\$162,000
Marketing	<1%	\$3,100
Surplus	24%	-\$168,020

FY23 Budget Line Item \$100,000
plus an additional \$25,715 from
MDAR Admin **FULLY SPENT**

FY24 Budget Line Item
\$100,000 **FULLY SPENT**

- Funded 400 additional surgeries
- Average cost \$250
- Helped animals in 105 municipalities
- 84 animals in urgent situations
- 247 cats helped
- 153 dogs helped



The Stanton Foundation Grants
 2022= \$75,000
 2023 = \$105,000
 2024 = \$75,000

May 23' \$30,000
 Emergency Grant

- 58 Canines Helped
- From 37 municipalities
- 49 Pyometra/ 9 Dystocia

November 23' \$75,000

- 221 Canines Helped
- From 81 municipalities
- 52 canines received emergency services

May 24' \$75,000

Designated for canines in municipal shelters or at 501c3 organizations.



The Stanton Foundation Grant
Final Report 3.18.24



Support

In November of 2023, the Massachusetts Animal Fund received a very generous grant in the amount of \$75,000 from The Stanton Foundation to help canines in need of spay/neuter across the Commonwealth!



Canines Helped

221 canines in need in Massachusetts received FREE spay/neuter assistance through The Stanton Foundation Grant. Of the canines helped, 49 were municipal shelter dogs waiting for adoption, and 172 dogs were owned by low-income MA residents; who couldn't afford to get spay/neuter services for their dogs on their own.



Areas Supported

This grant provided FREE services to canines in 81 municipalities through the collaborative effort between the Fund, 26 veterinary providers and 6 municipal partners.



Program Impact

During the grant period, 164 canines obtained vouchers for spay/neuter on the same day their application was received, reducing the average voucher wait for canines helped by this grant to just 37 days. Without the grant the average wait-time to receive a canine voucher would have been closer to 200 days.

Lives Saved



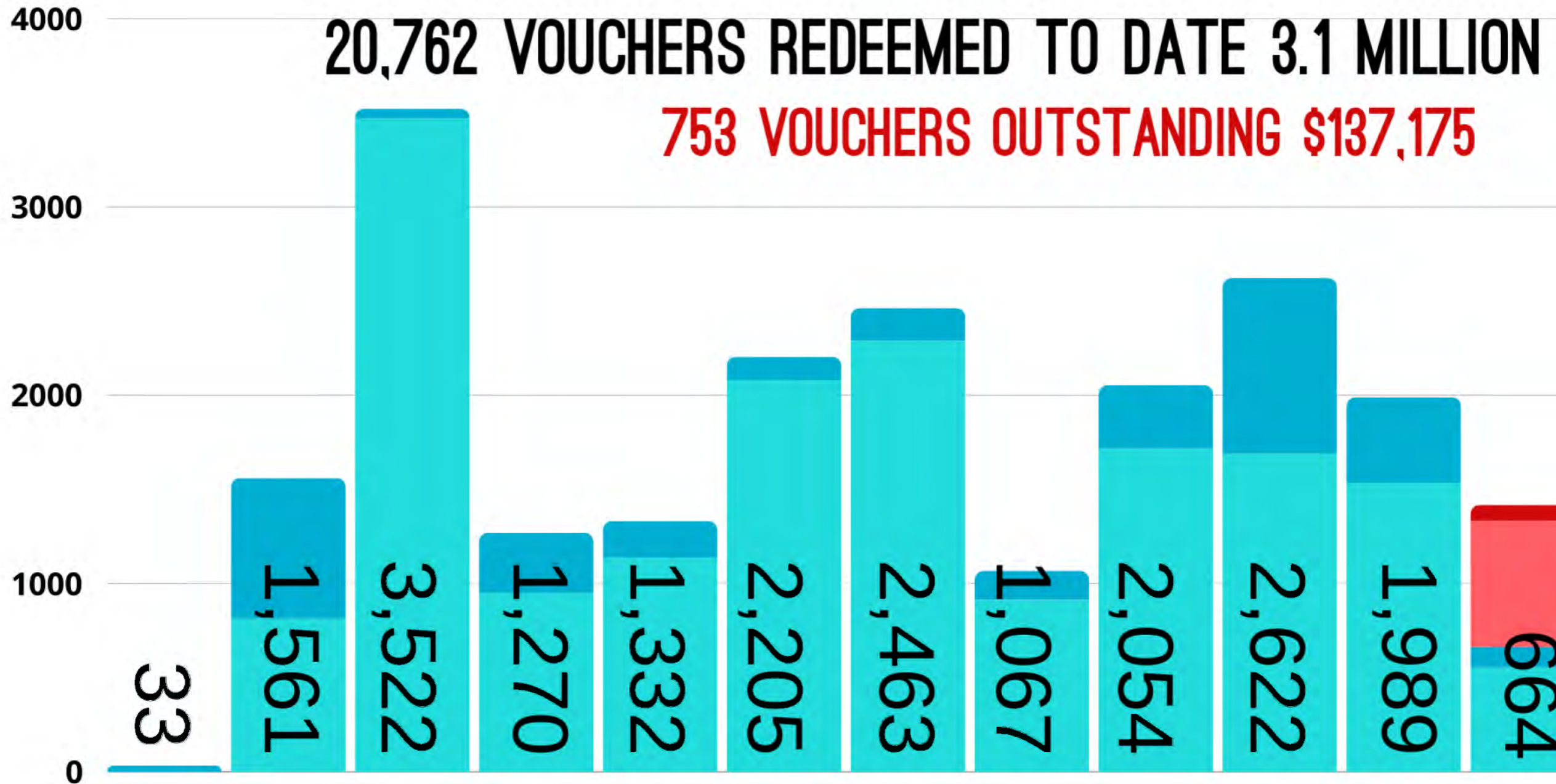
Thanks to The Stanton Foundation support, 52 canines (out of the 221) received FREE immediate emergency services. 29 canines received FREE spay services to resolve a pyometra infection. 2 canines received FREE life-saving dystocia spay services. 4 canines received FREE spay/neuter services to help resolve medical issues. 9 canines received FREE spay/neuter services to be able to keep them in housing with their families. 8 canines received FREE spay/neuter services to help get them out of a potentially dangerous situation.

Grant Utilized **\$75,075** **100%**
Through Nov. 1, 23' -Feb. 21, 24' 221 canines received assistance, \$340 was the average cost of their care.

SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



***AS OF 5/15/24**



SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



S/N Quick Notes:

Newest Providers-

**Friends of Franklin County Regional
Berkshire Humane
Mill Valley Veterinary (Belchertown)**

2 providers in process

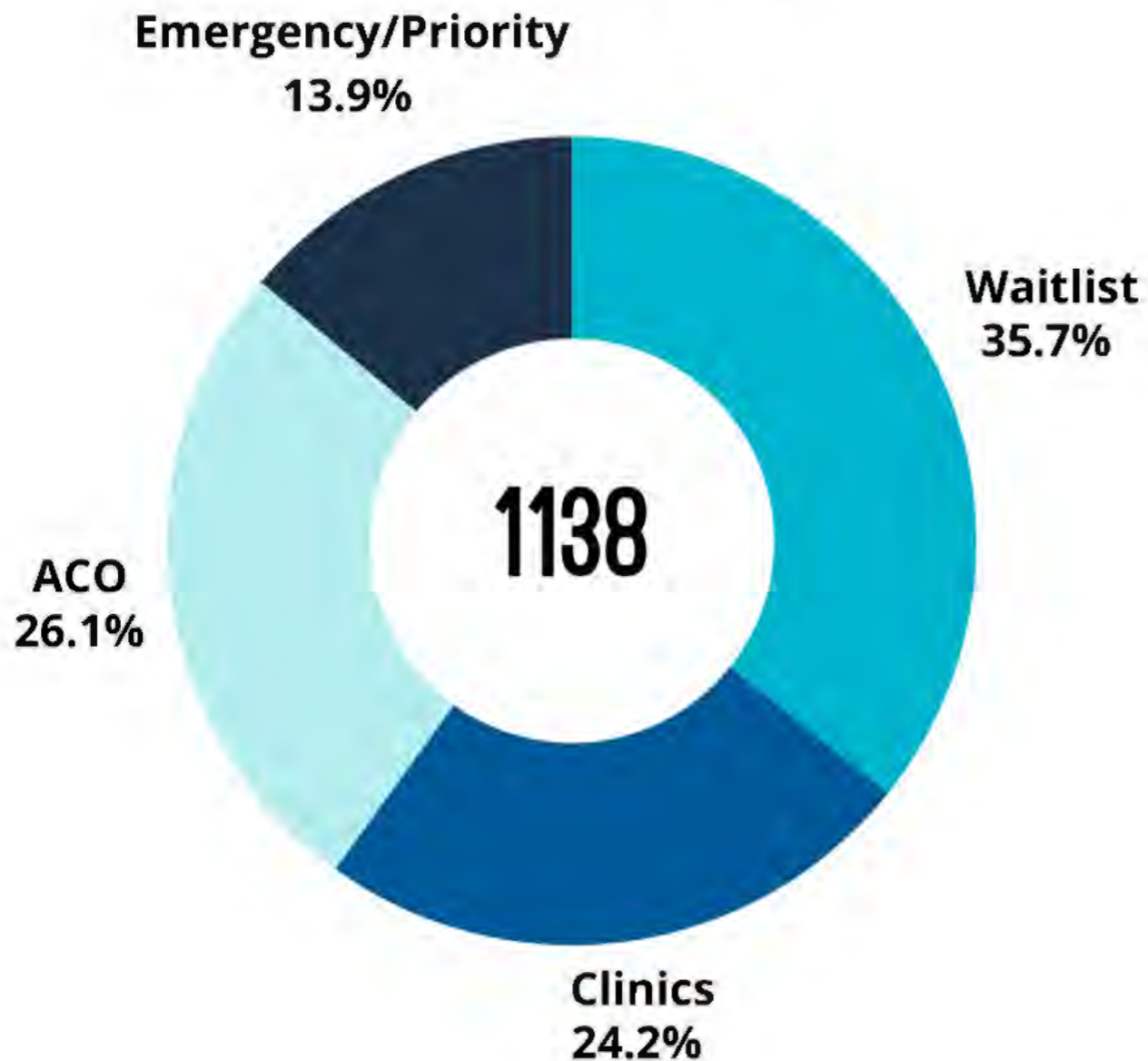
**1-Worcester County
1-Plymouth County**

Current Waitlist-

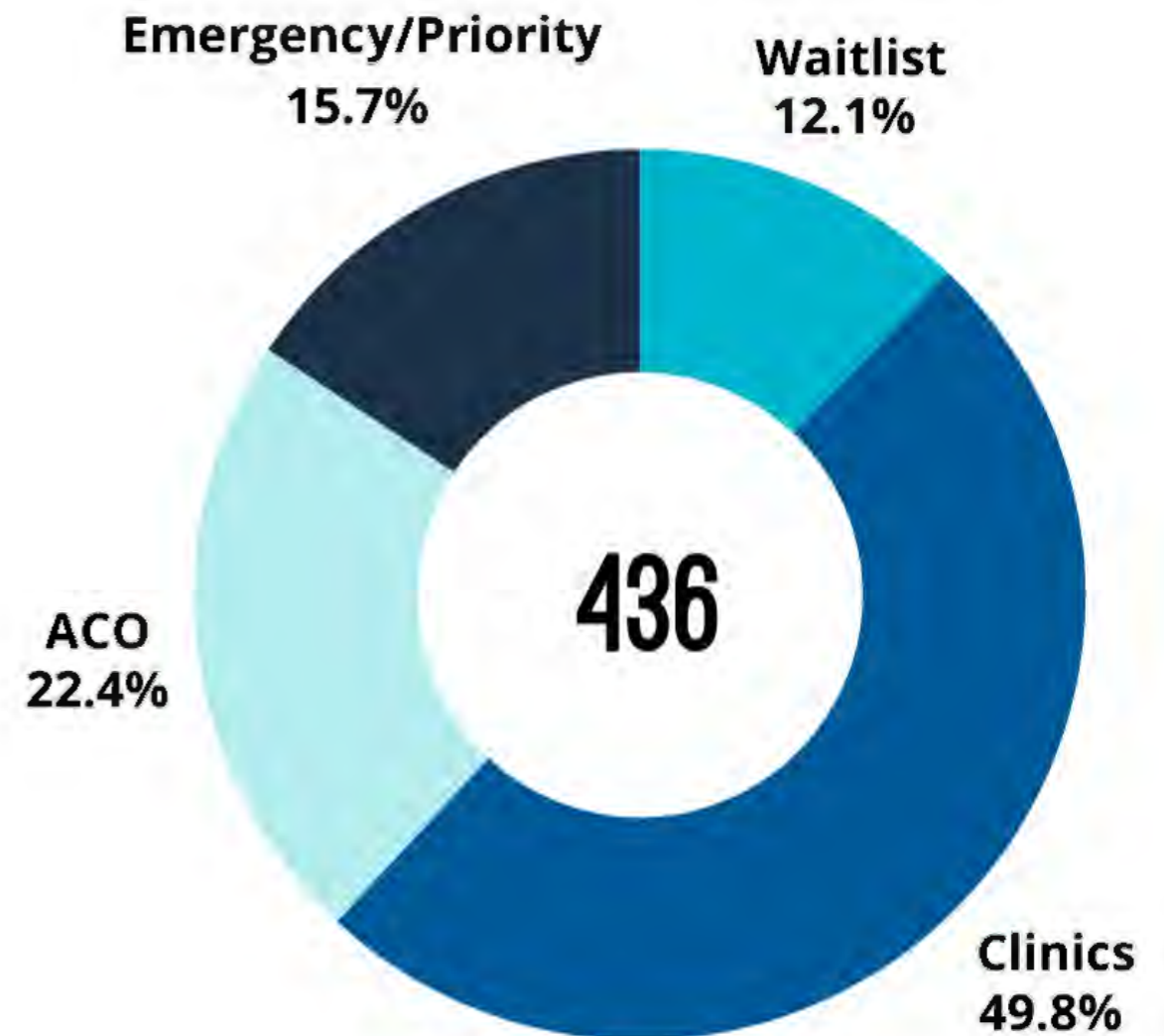
**-730 plus providers lists (\$163,000)
-Requests currently being issued from
Aug 23.
-current distribution rate approx.
\$60,00 a month**

2024 Trends

ISSUED 2024 93 EXPIRED



2024 REDEEMED

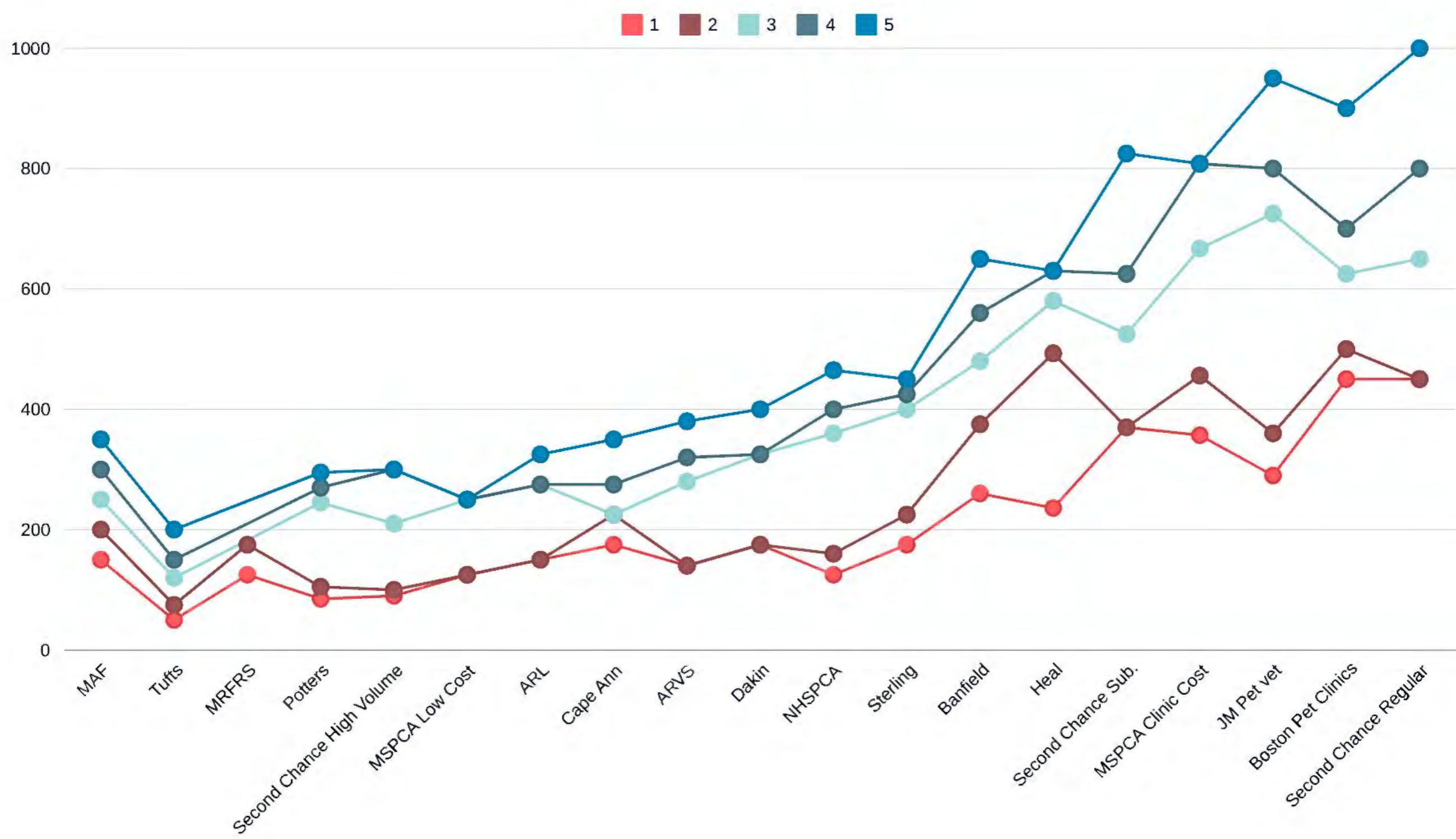


SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



Current Rates (revaluate in May 2024)

Tier 1	Cat Neuter	\$150
Tier II	Cat Spay	\$200
Tier III	Small Dog Neuter	\$250
Tier IV	Small Dog Spay/ Large Dog Neuter	\$300
Tier V	Large Dog Spay	\$350



SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



New Rates (proposed) for FY25

Tier 1	Cat Neuter	\$150
Tier II	Cat Spay	\$200
Tier III	Small Dog Neuter	\$300 \$250
Tier IV	Small Dog Spay/ Large Dog Neuter	\$350 \$300
Tier V	Large Dog Spay	\$400 \$350

SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



Current Complication Rates

Recommend NO change

	Complication Add-on Rates	
Parasites	1 med \$20	2 or more meds \$35
Cryptorchid	Inguinal \$40	Abdominal \$75
Hernia Repair	simple \$40	\$75
Extra Large	> 75 lbs \$50	>100 lbs. \$75
Older >5	\$40	with/bloodwork \$75
Estrus	\$35	
Obese	\$40	
Dystocia/ Pyometra	Cat \$150	Dog \$200
Stand Alone Reimbursements: MDAR Request or if animal is found to already be S/N		
1 vaccine \$25	2 vaccines \$35	Under Anesthesia extra \$50
MDAR Emergency Related Medical Request: \$Determined at preapproval		

ACO TRAINING



2024 Goals

- Update MA Law book.
- NEW Core final exam video
- Increase ACO handouts short documents with procedural guidance
- Session 1 Sept. 23rd + 30th Palmer MA?
- Session 2 Oct. 6th and 7th Westborough, MA virtual option



2024 ACO Designations emailed, and due back on Feb 1st, 2024. Last year we saw a huge drop in compliance. 2024 mailing- revamped designation portal and sheet. 82% compliance in 2024 up from around 50%!!!



Next Meeting....

August?