



**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 2nd, 2023 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

In Attendance:

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

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

I. Advisory Committee Empty Seats

Sheri opened the meeting by saying that MDAR will be moving to their new office location at 100 Cambridge Street, Boston during the week of May 1st. Sheri stated that there are currently two empty seats on the Mass Animal Fund Advisory Committee; an interested member of the public, and a member in the pet industry.

Kara Holmquist opened a discussion on Advisory Committee qualifications. Sheri asked the Committee if there were any suggested candidates, and the Committee had no suggestions.

II. Fund Totals and Expenditures

Sheri explained the current Fund's revenue totals. The Fund has an unexpended balance of \$282,768 as of 2/24/23. The revenue intake in CY22 was \$573,358, and revenue to date in CY23 is \$193,864. Sheri presented the FY numbers but stated that we prefer to track by CY To date, the Fund has taken in \$3,939,367 in revenue. \$3,386,875 has been from tax donations/ online donations/ grants, \$2,491.65 from interest, and \$550,000 from line items in the state budget.

Sheri presented a spending breakdown from Fund inception to date. To date, the Fund's spending was in the following distributions: \$2,522,921 (64%) for veterinary services, \$109,169 (3%) for ACO training, \$999,907 (25%) for administration, \$25,485 (<1%) for marketing. Total spending for CY22 was \$575,213.

Sheri presented the final numbers from CY22 in the 2022 Review Report. The Fund's spending was in the following distributions: 71% for veterinary services, 2% for ACO training, 26% for administration, <1% for marketing, and a \$97,544 (17%) surplus. Total spending in CY21 was \$474,885.

Sheri presented highlights from the 2022 Review Report. In 2022, \$398,358 was donated on Line 33f, the Fund received \$100,000 from a line item in the state budget and \$75,000 from The Stanton Foundation. In December of 2022, the Fund reached the milestone of having provided \$2,500,000 in assistance to local animals in need. In 2022,

the Fund completed the 6th round of Core Competency Training. To date, the Fund has trained 730 ACOs trained in areas of animal laws, wildlife, animal behavior, safe handling, officer safety, and report writing, and record-keeping since Core Training Program started in 2016.

III. Budget/Grant Spending

Sheri presented the Fund's CY23 proposed budget. CY23 proposed budget of \$590,000 had the following allocations: 67% for veterinary services, 1% for ACO training, 28% for administration, and less than 1% for marketing. The proposed budget utilized \$60,000 in rollover revenue from CY22 and projected revenue from \$430,000 in donations and \$100,000 from a state budget line item. If projected revenue amounts are reached, the CY23 proposed budget would leave an operating buffer of \$275,000 in the trust fund.

The Advisory Committee approved the CY23 proposed budget. Sheri explained that the budget will get adjusted if the Fund receives lower than projected revenue.

Sheri presented that the \$75,000 the Fund received from The Stanton Foundation grant was 100% spent and that it was utilized to help 293 canines from August 2022 through January 2023.

IV. FY23 Line Item

Sheri stated that the FY23 Budget Line Item of \$100,000 was 77% spent and had helped 458 animals to date. Kara Holmquist commented that there will be a push to try to obtain a line item in the FY24 budget.

V. Spay/Neuter Voucher Program

Sheri presented that the Fund has helped 18,363 animals to date.

Kyle gave information on CY23 voucher distribution. As of 3/2/23, over 500 have been disseminated, and there are currently 543 animals on the MAF wait list, plus additional animals on the provider wait lists. Voucher dissemination for CY23 is currently at approximately \$27,000 a month. In CY23 the program welcomed Lowell Humane Society, Cape Ann Animal Aid, Come Together Animal Clinic, and the Town of Norwood as new providers or municipal partners. The program lost North Shore Animal Hospital as a provider and Potter's League is suspending voucher surgeries for an undetermined period.

Sheri presented a history of the Voucher Program's veterinary rates. The Voucher program started in 2014 and has raised reimbursement rates 4 times, the last rate increase was in 2021. Sheri stated that the Fund recently polled all the providers/partners and responses showed that rates need to increase to keep up with the cost of care. The tier I rate of \$100 for a male cat was meeting costs for less than half of the providers. The \$150 tier II rate for female cats was meeting costs for half of the providers. The \$200 tier III rate for small male dogs was meeting costs for less than half of the providers. The \$250 tier IV rate for small female dogs and large male dogs were meeting costs for a quarter of the providers. The \$300 tier V rate for large female dogs was meeting costs for a quarter of the providers.

Sheri proposed rate increases of \$50 across all tiers. The proposed increase would bring the tier rates to \$150 for tier I, \$200 for tier II, \$250 for tier III, \$300 for tier IV, and \$350 for tier V. Sheri proposed that many of the complication add-on rates be increased, that animals in ACO care be eligible for vaccine only reimbursements if found to be already sterilized, and that vaccines be eligible for additional reimbursements instead of being included in a flat fee. The proposed increases would rise the overall spay/neuter costs by 30%.

Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore stated that she was supportive of all rate increases and vaccines being additional reimbursements. Michael Cahill stated that he was supportive of all increases.

The Advisory Committee voted and unanimously agreed that all proposed rates be accepted and that the new rates would go into effect on July 1, 2023, for all providers and municipal partners renewing their contracts for FY24.

Sheri presented that the Fund also polled the providers and municipal partners about adding rabbits into the spay/neuter voucher program. 5 providers said they would be able to perform rabbit surgeries but that the average cost would be \$300 for a rabbit neuter and \$400 for a rabbit spay. Sheri stated that to add rabbits a legislative change would need to happen.

Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore requested that more information be collected to help determine the need for spay/neuter for rabbits across the state.

VI. Promotions/Events/Marketing

Sheri presented that MassDOT was allowing the Fund to show large-scale public service ads for Line 33f on over 84 billboards for free. Sheri stated that if funding allows she would like to see about hiring an intern or part-time marketing person during the tax season. The discussion was to be continued after the donation numbers are received for 2023.

Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore suggested that the Fund be conscious of using certain breeds known for having genetic health issues in advertising. Sheri agreed to consider that suggestion moving forward.

VII. Animal Control Officer Training

Sheri tabled the ACO training discussion until the next AC meeting and said that at the next meeting, we will be going over the 2022 training review and we will be talking about continuing education credit tracking.

Kara Holmquist asked if MDAR will have a new Commissioner appointed. Michael Cahill commented that no decision had been made yet that he is aware of.

Sheri said she will be sending out a doodle poll to figure out a date for the next AC Meeting.



Advisory Committee Meeting

3/2/23 *On the move...*



AGENDA



- I. Advisory Committee Empty Seats**
- II. Fund Totals and Expenditures**
- III. Budget/Grant Spending**
- IV. FY23 Line Item**
- V. Spay/Neuter Voucher Program**
 - A. Numbers**
 - B. Wait List**
 - C. Provider Recruitment**
 - D. Reimbursement Rates**
 - E. Services**

- VI. Promotions/ Events/ Marketing**
- VII. Animal Control Officers**
 - A. 2023 ACO Designations**
 - B. 2022 Core Training Summary**
 - C. CE Training**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE EMPTY SEATS



Mass Animal Fund Advisory Committee Seats

Interested Member of the Public (Vacant)

Member in the Pet Industry (Vacant)

Member In Animal Control

Member from Animal Shelters/Rescues

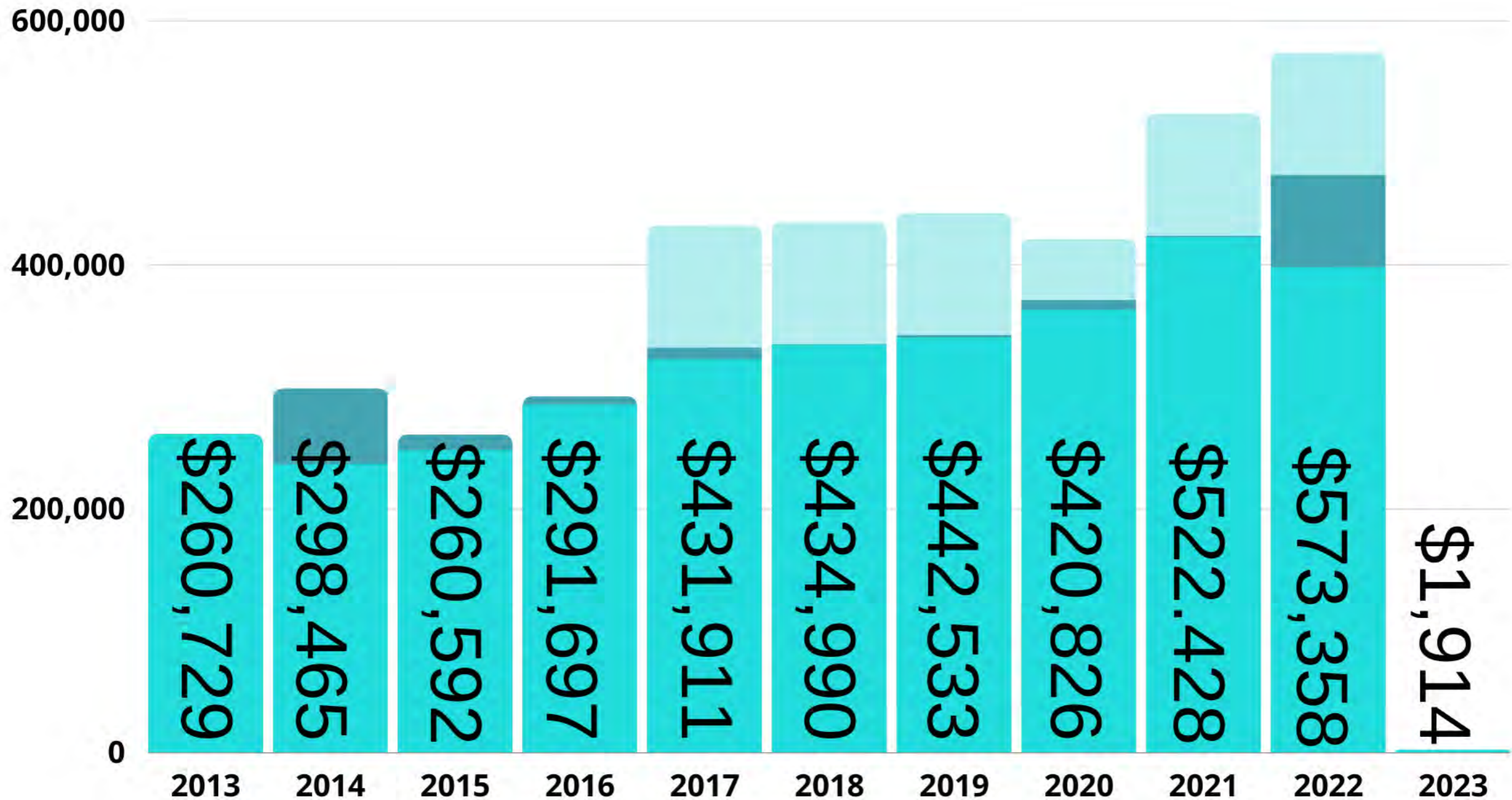
Member from the Veterinary Field



FUND TOTALS AND EXPENDITURES



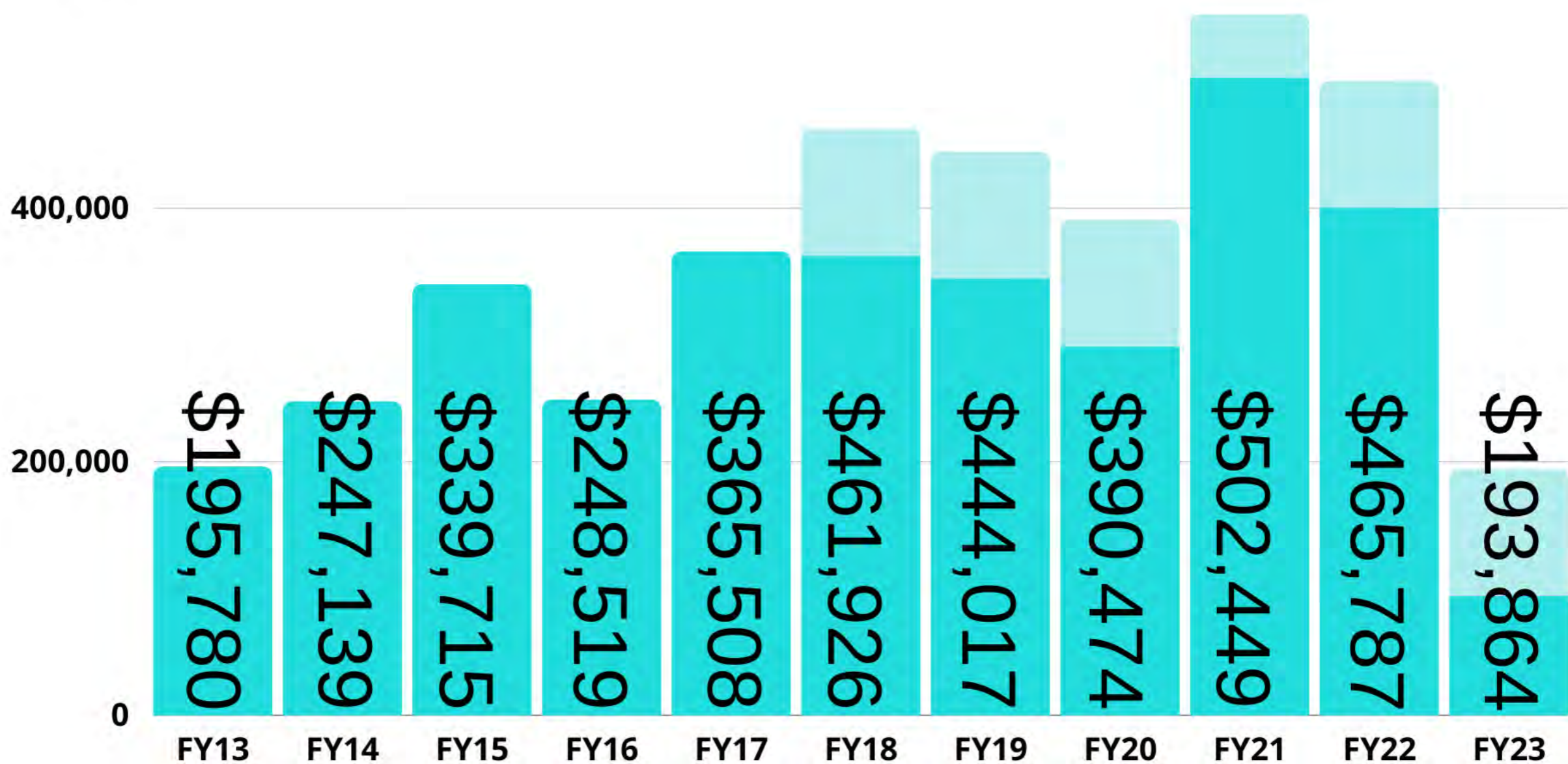
Unexpended balance as of 2.24.23 \$282,768. CY 22' ended \$50,930 more than 21' in donations



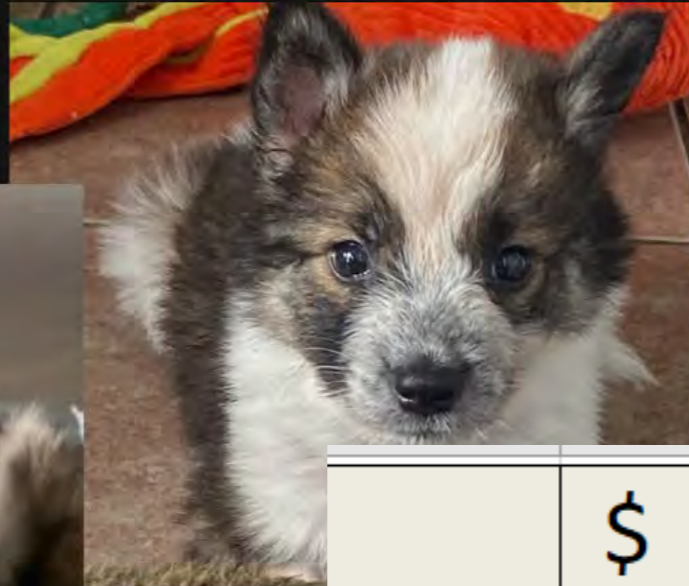
FUND TOTALS AND EXPENDITURES



600,000 — FY (ugh, stressy)*let's just focus on calendar year!



How our donations have grown....

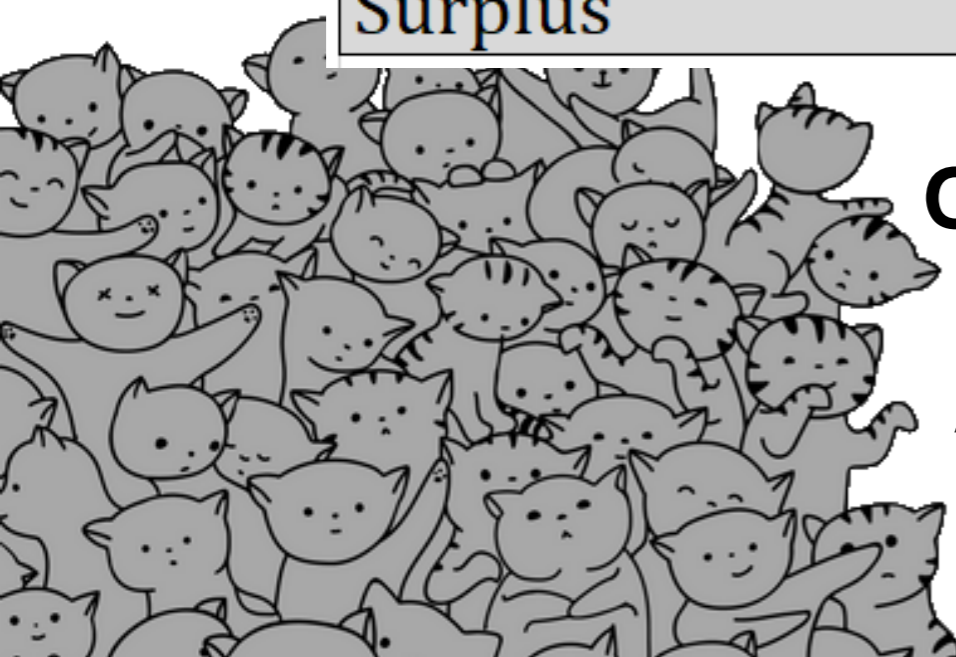


	\$ 3,939,367.44			
	total donations/grants	interest	line item	
2013	\$ 260,729.55	0		
2014	\$ 298,086.38	378.73		
2015	\$ 260,303.06	289.6		
2016	\$ 291,494.16	123.15		
2017	\$ 331,685.67	225.98	\$	100,000.00
2018	\$ 334,590.90	399.44	\$	100,000.00
2019	\$ 342,064.72	469.06	\$	100,000.00
2020	\$ 370,686.42	139.68	\$	50,000.00
2021	\$ 422,405.32	22.89	\$	100,000.00
2022	\$ 472,994.17	364.27	\$	100,000.00
2023	\$ 1,835.44	78.85		
	\$ 3,386,875.79	\$ 2,491.65	\$	550,000.00

FUND TOTALS AND EXPENDITURES



Inception to date	Percentage of Revenue \$3,939,367	Expenses to Date \$3,658,128
Veterinary	64%	\$2,522,921.14
ACO Training	3%	\$109,169.87
Administration	25%	\$999,907.82
Marketing	<1%	\$25,485.27
Surplus	7%	\$281,239.34



Over 18,500 local animals helped!
Almost 23,000 vouchers have been distributed.



2022 REVIEW



The Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Trust (Mass Animal Fund), administered by the Division of Animal Health, seeks to respond to the Commonwealth's ongoing problem of animal homelessness by providing no-cost spay/neuter/vaccination resources for homeless

dogs and cats in municipal animal control facilities, for dogs and cats owned by low-income Massachusetts residents, and for feral cats.

The Mass Animal Fund also provides free training opportunities and support to

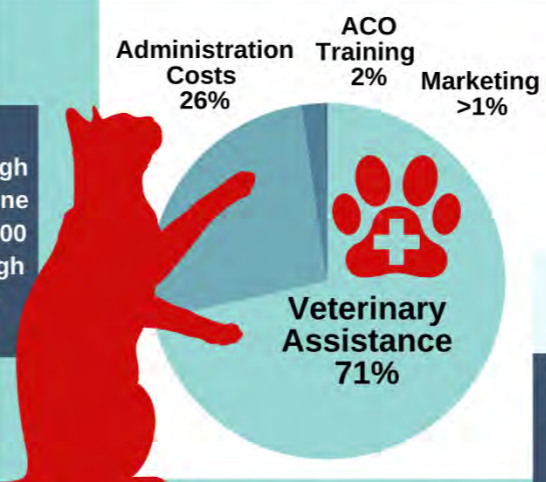
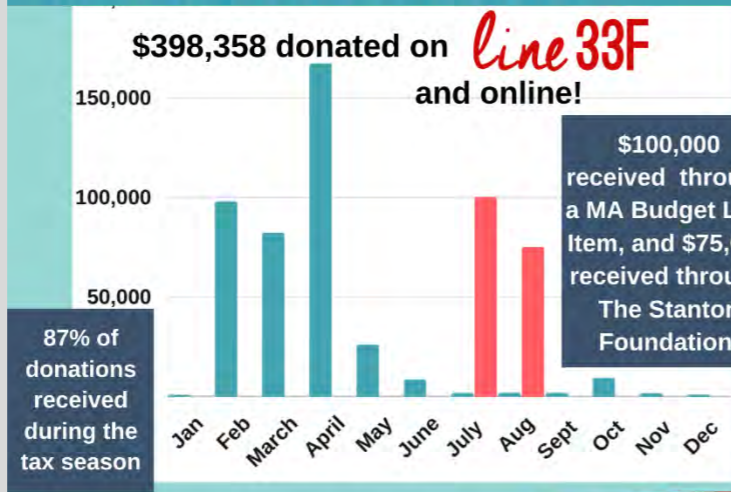
Massachusetts Animal Control Officers (ACO) so they can better serve their communities and provide uniform enforcement of animal control laws.

Since its inception in 2012, the Mass Animal Fund has acquired over 3.9 million, and has helped over 18,000 cats and dogs throughout the Commonwealth. The Mass Animal Fund relies on donations from Massachusetts taxpayers, who have contributed 86% of this revenue is through voluntary donations on Line 33f of the Massachusetts Income Tax Return.

line 33F donars, thank you for the support!

\$573,358 IN FUNDING RECEIVED

\$575,213 SPENT ON PROGRAMS

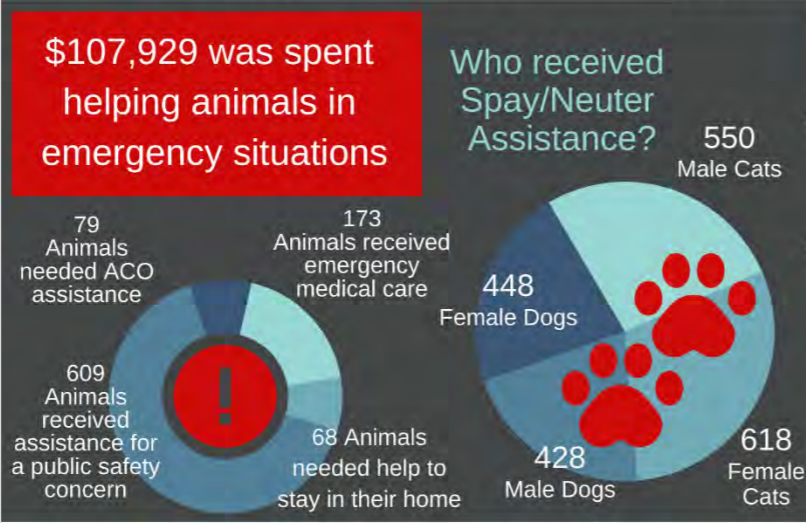


An average of \$185 spent per voucher on assistance. An average of \$233 spent per animal for emergency voucher surgery & \$39 spent per animal for priority vaccines.

COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF CARE
29 VETERINARY PROVIDERS & 5 MUNICIPAL PARTNERS ACCEPTED VOUCHERS IN 2022

2,622 LOCAL ANIMALS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

\$403,310 WAS SPENT HELPING ANIMALS



MILESTONES REACHED

- In December of 2022, the Fund reached the milestone of having provided \$2.5 Million in assistance to local animals in need.
- In October of 2022, the Fund completed the 6th round of Core Competency Training. 730 ACOs have been trained in areas of: animal laws, wildlife, animal behavior, officer safety and report writing & record keeping since the Core Training Program started in 2016.

CONTACT INFO

WWW.MASS.GOV/ANIMALFUND

Sheri Gustafson
Program Coordinator
617-626-1740
Sheri.Gustafson@mass.gov

Kyle Baron
Community Liaison
617-626-1790
Kyle.Baron@mass.gov

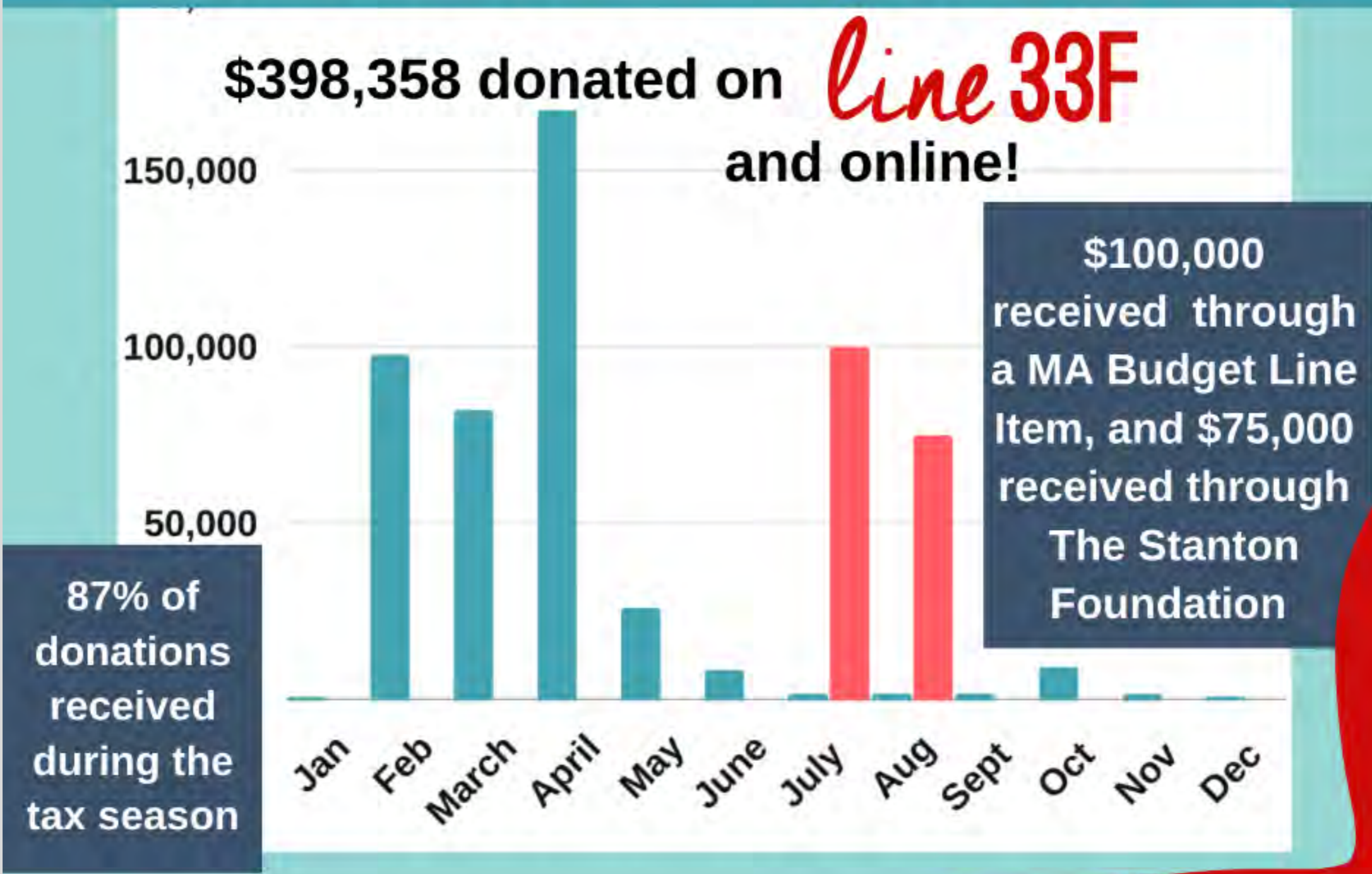
@line33f
@line33f
fb.com/massanimalfund



line 33F do

\$573,358 IN FUNDING RECEIVED

\$398,358 donated on *line 33F* and online!



87% of donations received during the tax season

\$100,000 received through a MA Budget Line Item, and \$75,000 received through The Stanton Foundation

2,622 LOCAL ANIMALS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

\$575,213 SPENT ON PROGRAMS

Administration Costs 26%
ACO Training 2%
Marketing >1%

Veterinary Assistance 71%



An average of \$185 spent per voucher on assistance. An average of \$233 spent per animal for emergency voucher surgery & \$39 spent per animal for priority vaccines.

COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF CARE

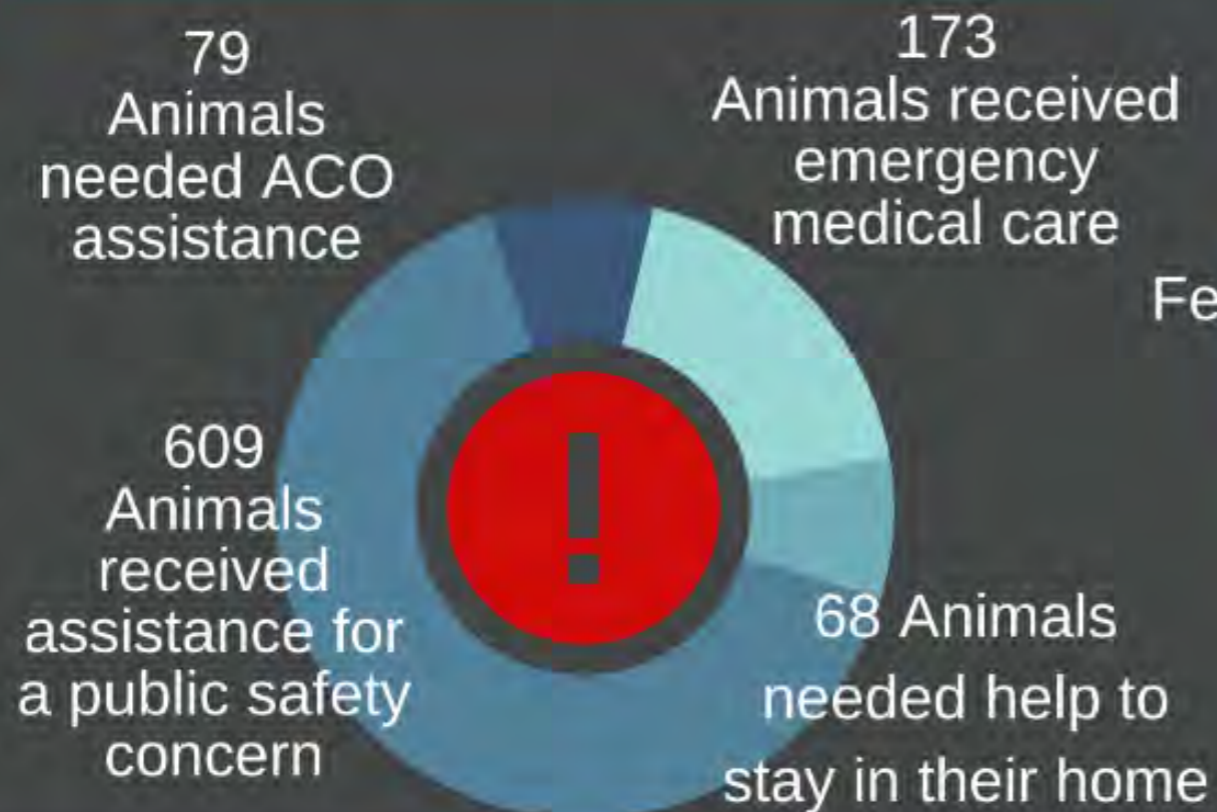
29 VETERINARY PROVIDERS
& 5 MUNICIPAL PARTNERS
ACCEPTED VOUCHERS
IN 2022

2,622 LOCAL ANIMALS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

\$107,929 was spent helping animals in emergency situations

Who received Spay/Neuter Assistance?

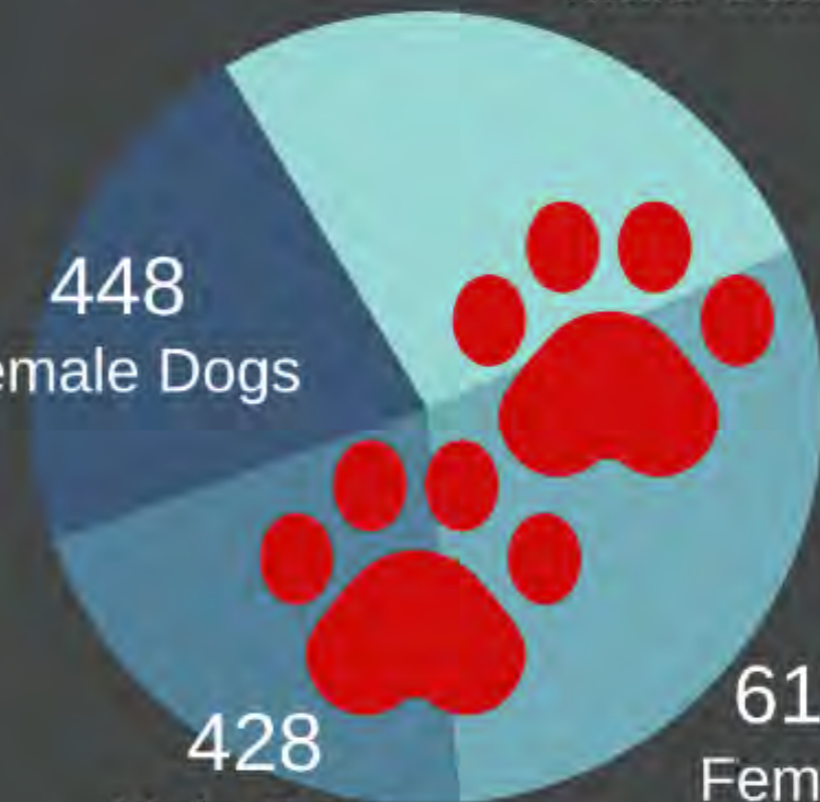
550 Male Cats



448 Female Dogs

428 Male Dogs

618 Female Cats



\$403,310 WAS SPENT HELPING ANIMALS

MILESTONES REACHED

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e



2022 Proposed Budget



\$590,000 = \$430,000 from 2023 Donations
 \$100,000 FY24 Line Item
 \$60,000 Rollover from 2022

* would leave a buffer of approx. \$275,000
 in the Fund

2023 Proposed \$590,000	% of Proposed	Proposed Expenses = \$587,740
Veterinary	67%	\$400,000.00
ACO Training	1%	\$18,400.00
Administration	28%	\$160,000.00
Marketing	<1%	\$11,600.00
Surplus		(\$60,000.00)

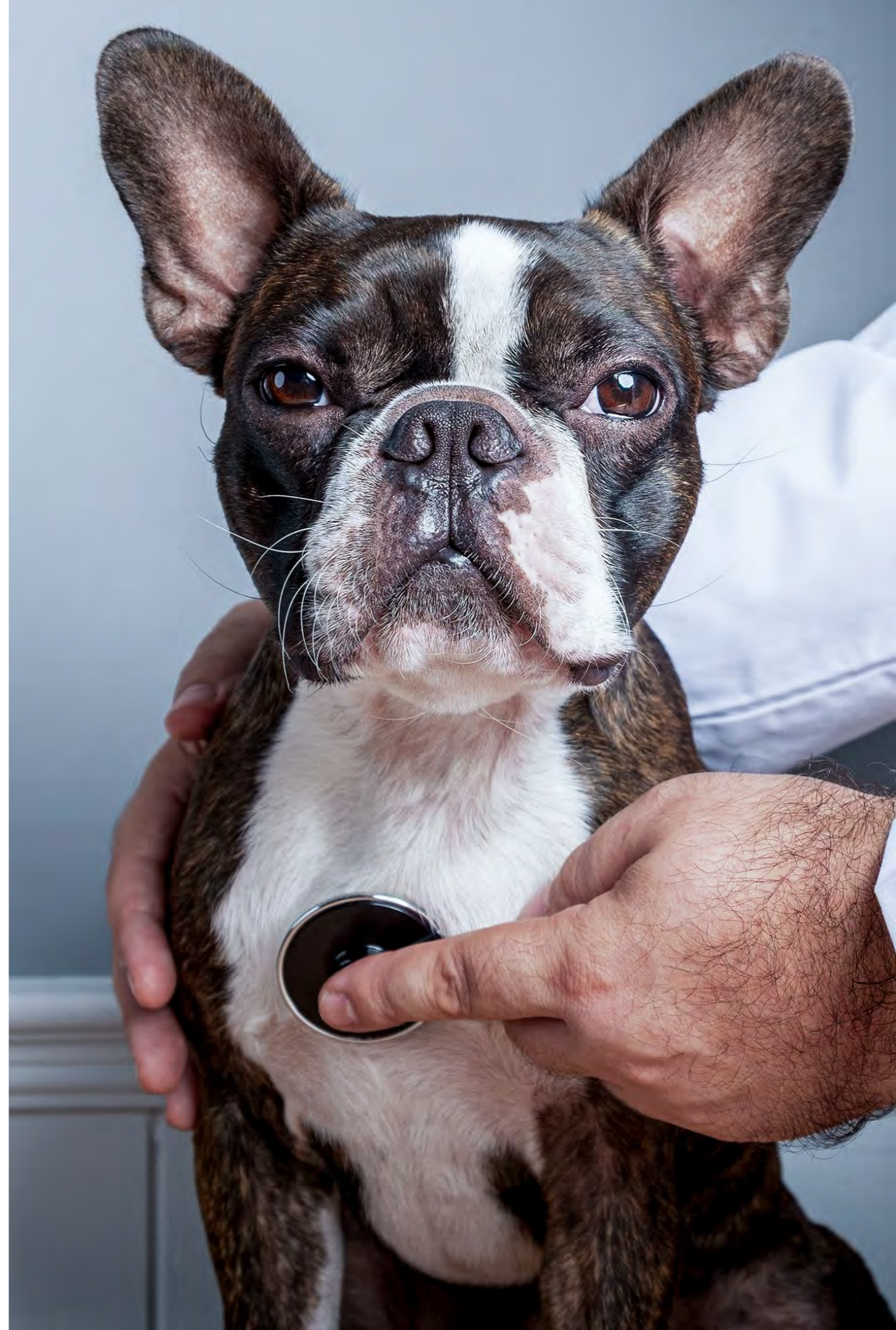
FY23 Budget Line Item \$100,000

Almost 77% spent.

Released for use in
increments.

Average cost of surgery
\$168

Utilized for 458
surgeries to date.



The Stanton Foundation Grant \$75,000

100% spent.

Utilized from Aug. 2022 through Jan. 2023

Average cost of surgery \$256

Utilized for 293 Canines

- 35 needed Emergency Surgeries
- 21 medical, 9 housing, 5 safety



The Stanton Foundation Grant *Final Report 1.28.23*

Support

In August of 2022, the Massachusetts Animal Fund received a very generous grant in the amount of \$75,000 from The Stanton Foundation to be able to help canines in need across the Commonwealth!



Canines Helped

To date, 293 canines in need in Massachusetts have received FREE spay/neuter surgeries through this grant. 141 males and 152 females. 34 dogs in ACO care, 259 owned by low-income MA residents.



Areas Supported

To date, this grant has provided FREE services to canines in 103 municipalities through the collaborative effort of the Fund and 29 veterinary and 5 municipal partners.



Program Impact

Through the support of the Stanton Foundation, the Fund was able to reduce the wait time for vouchers from over 5 months to less than 45 days. 162 dogs even received vouchers on the same day requested.

Lives Saved



Thanks to the Stanton Foundation support, 35 Canines in Massachusetts were able to receive FREE emergency services. 21 of these canines needed immediate spay/neuter for a life-threatening medical condition. 9 canines received immediate FREE spay/neuter services to be able to keep them in housing with their families and 5 received immediate FREE spay/neuter services to help get them out of a potentially dangerous situation.

Grant Utilized

Through Aug. 2022-Jan. 2023

\$75,000

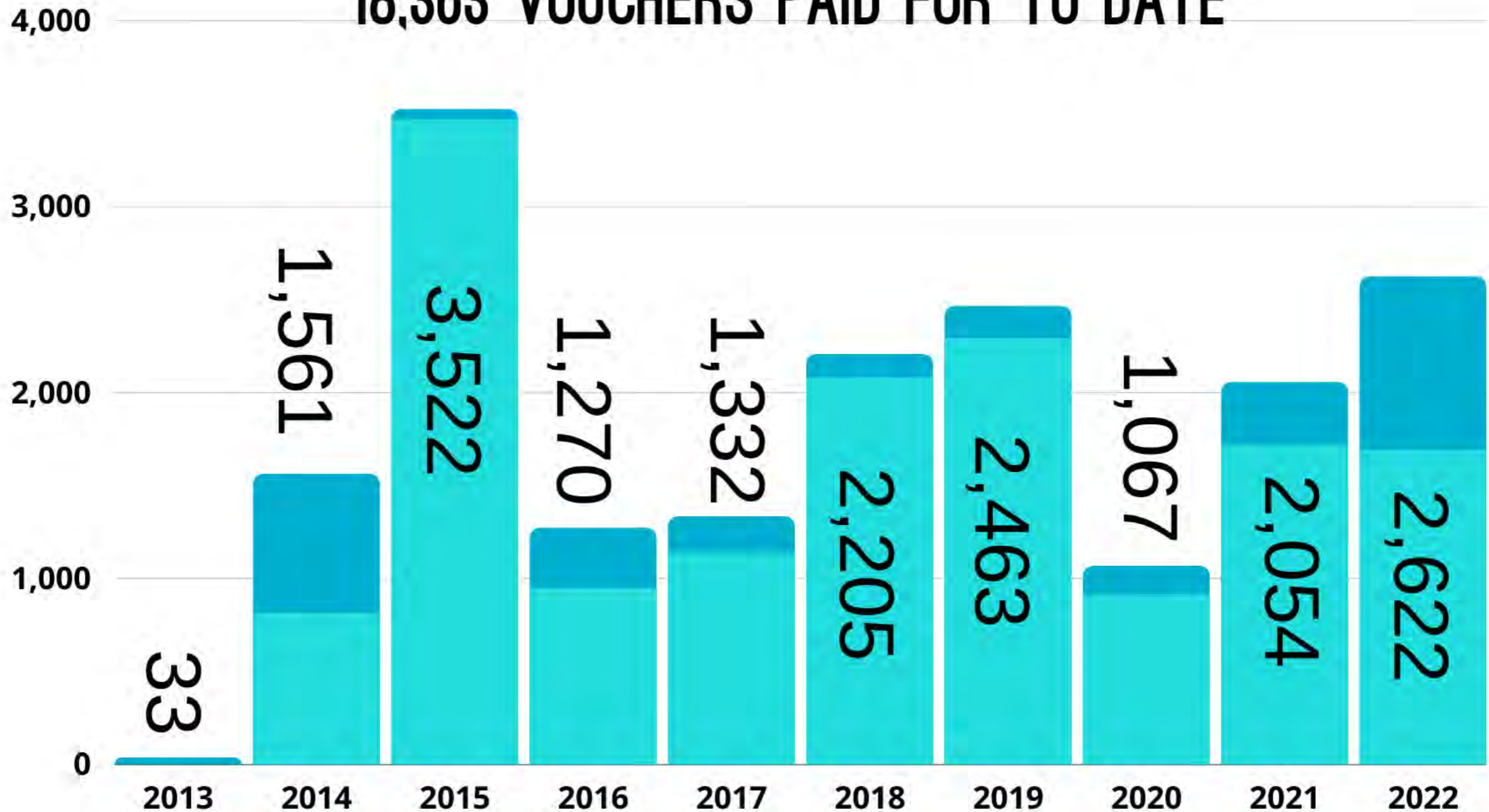
100%

279 canines have received spay/neuter services, \$256 average cost of care.

SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



18,363 VOUCHERS PAID FOR TO DATE



SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



S/N Quick Notes:

New Providers-

**Lowell Humane Society,
Cape Ann Animal Aid,
Come Together Animal Clinic,
Northeast Animal Shelter,
Town of Norwood**

Lost Providers-

**North Shore Animal Hospital,
Potter's League (temporary hold)**

Current Waitlist-

**-543 plus providers lists
-requests currently being issued from
early September (approx. 5 month wait)
-current distribution rate approx.
\$27,000 a month
-over 500 vouchers already issued in
2023**

Veterinary Tier Rates (History)

	Original Tiers 2014-2016	
Tier 1	Cat Neuter /Small Dog Neuter (,50lbs)	\$75
Tier II	Cat Spay/ Small Dog Spay/ Large Dog Neuter	\$150
Tier III	Large Dog Spay	\$300
	Tiers 2016-2018	
Tier 1	Cat Neuter	\$75
Tier II	Cat Spay/ Small Dog Spay/ Small & Large Dog Neuter	\$150
Tier III	Large Dog Spay	\$300
	Tiers 2018-2021	
Tier 1	Cat Neuter	\$75
Tier II	Cat Spay/Small Dog Neuter	\$150
Tier II	Small Dog Spay/ Large Dog Neuter	\$225
Tier III	Large Dog Spay	\$300
	Tiers 2021-Current	
Tier 1	Cat Neuter	\$100
Tier II	Cat Spay	\$150
Tier III	Small Dog Neuter	\$200
Tier IV	Small Dog Spay/ Large Dog Neuter	\$250
Tier V	Large Dog Spay	\$300

SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



Tier Rates (Current)

Cats (Felines)

F Tier I	Cat Neuter	\$100
F Tier II	Cat Spay	\$150

Dogs

D Tier I	Small Dog Neuter (<50lbs.)	\$200
D Tier II	Small Dog Spay (<50lbs.) Large Dog Neuter (>50lbs.)	\$250
D Tier III	Large Dog Spay (>50lbs.)	\$300

SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



Complication Rate (Current)

Complication add-on amounts. Limit 1 per animals unless MAF approval given

Parasites	1 medication \$10	2 + medications \$25
Cryptorchid	Inguinal \$30	Abdominal \$75
Hernia repair	Simple \$30	Complex \$75
Extra Large	>75 lbs. \$25	>100 lbs. \$50
Older >5	\$25	w/bloodwork \$50
Estrus	\$25	
Obese	\$25	
Dystocia/Pyometra	Cat/ Small Dog/ Large Dog \$150	

Stand Alone Reimbursements: MDAR request or if animal is found to be already S/N

1 vaccine \$25	2 vaccines \$35	Under anesthesia add \$25
MDAR Emergency Related Medical Request		Price to be determined with preapproval

SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



WHY Raise Rates for Cats?

**Tier I \$100: male cat average cost \$126.
(highest cost reported \$236)
>half meeting cost**

**Tier II \$150: female cat average cost \$203.
(highest cost reported \$493)
half meeting cost**

SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



WHY Raise Rates for dogs?

**Tier III \$200: small male dog average cost \$231
(highest cost reported \$580)
< half meeting cost**

**Tier IV \$250: small female dog, large male dog
average cost \$290 (highest reported \$630)
< a quarter meeting cost**

**Tier V \$300: large female dog a, average cost \$350
(highest reported cost (\$630)
< a quarter meeting cost**

SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



Proposed New Rates

	Proposed New Rates	
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



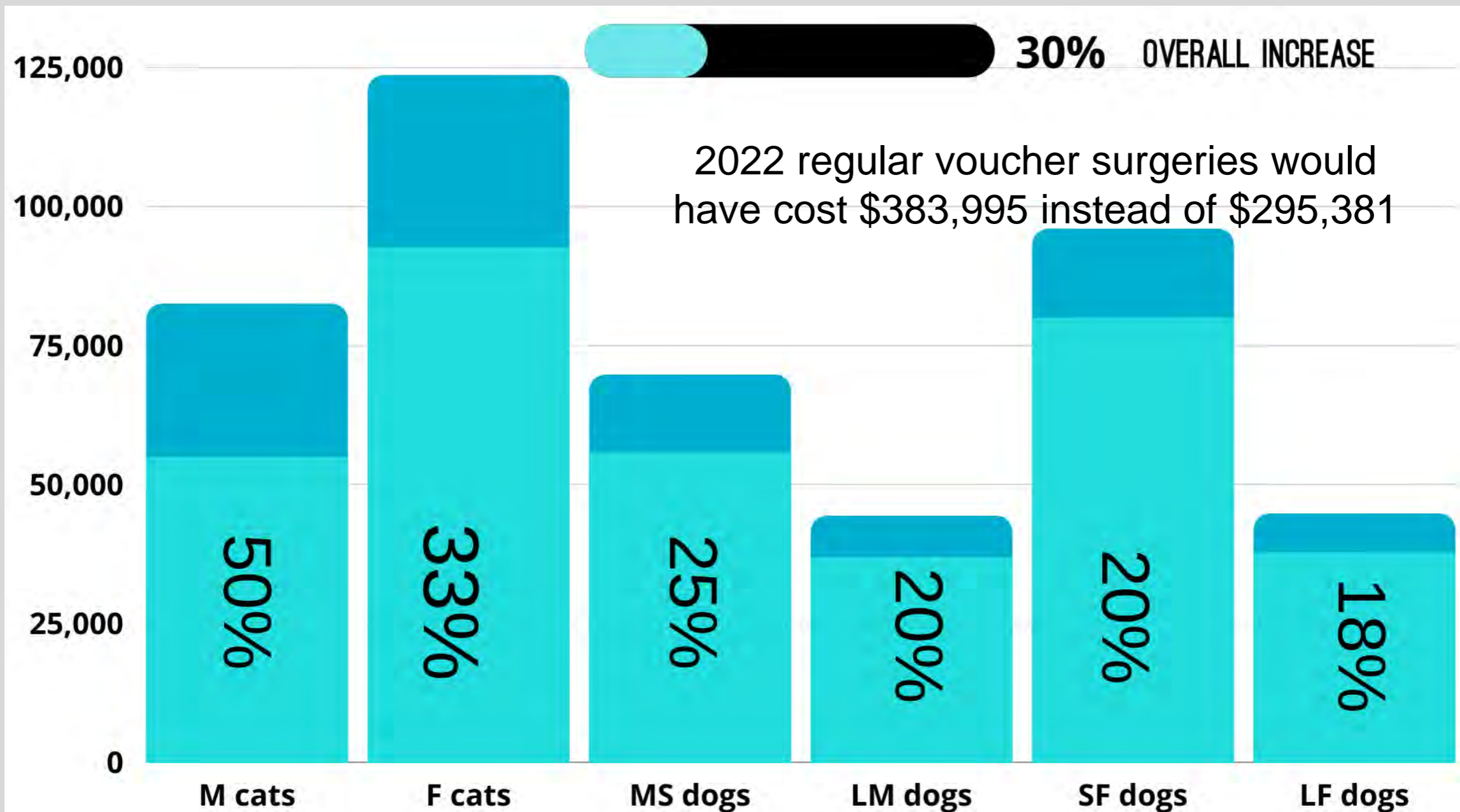
Proposed New Complication Rates

	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		

SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



What would the proposed rates mean?



SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



Services: The Rabbit Question?

5 providers said they would be able to take on rabbit surgeries (for ACOs)

**TJO, Cape Anne Animal Aid,
Second Chance, Sterling Animal Shelter,
Come Together AC (Dr. Delgado)**

**Average cost needed \$300 neuter, \$400
spay**

Visit **Line 33F**
the warm and fuzzy
tax line!



 Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

[Mass.gov/AnimalFund](https://www.mass.gov/AnimalFund) **massDOT**
Massachusetts Department of Transportation



File Taxes. **HELP ANIMALS!**

Line 33F

17,000 local animals helped and counting!

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

[Mass.gov/AnimalFund](https://www.mass.gov/AnimalFund)



File Taxes.
HELP ANIMALS!

Line 33F

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 Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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File Taxes. **HELP ANIMALS!** **Line 33F**



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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[Mass.gov/AnimalFund](https://www.mass.gov/AnimalFund)

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

ACO TRAINING



2022 Core Updates

- **2022 Core Breakdown and Review –next meeting**
 - **Next Core Training will take place in Fall 2023**
 - **ACO Jumpstart zoom meeting in May 2023**
 - **New CE submission Portal**
 - **New designation Portal**
 - **Taking to software vendors for CE tracking**
- **Updated and Reprinted MA Law book.**
 - **NEW final exam video**
 - **Held two sessions**
 - **Chelmsford (virtual & in person)**
 - **Dedham (in person only)**



2023 ACO Designations were due back on Feb 1st, 2021, over 200 still need to report.

Why such bad compliance?



Next Meeting....

May?

