

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes January 10, 2023 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

In Attendance:

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

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 \$457,996 as of 1/10/2024. The revenue intake in CY23 to date was \$597,567. Sheri presented the FY numbers, in FY23 the Fund took in \$596,792. Since inception in 2013, the Fund has taken in \$4,560,020. \$3,881,509 has been from tax donations/ online donations/ grants, \$3,511 from interest, and \$675,000 from line items in the state budget.

#### II. Budget and End of Year Report

Sheri Presented the 2023 Year in Review Report. Highlights from the report were:

Since inception the Fund has spent over 2.9 million helping over 19,900 cats and dogs.

The Fund received 3,700 requests for help in 2023.

One out of every 4 vouchers redeemed was for an animal needing urgent services.

76% of funding spent was on veterinary care.

The ACO Training program hit the milestone of 800 ACOs trained in the Core Competencies.

In 2023, \$458,390 was spent to help 1,989 animals in need.

Sheri presented a spending breakdown from Fund inception to date. To date, the Fund's spending was in the following distributions: \$2,941,766 (65%) for veterinary services, \$122,170 (3%) for ACO training, \$1,025,899 (22%) for administration, \$27,201 (<1%) for marketing, and there is currently a \$442,348 surplus in the Fund that will roll into 2024 spending.

Sheri presented the Fund's CY23 proposed budget versus the actual spending. CY23 proposed budget of \$650,000 had the following allocations: 78% for veterinary services, 3% for ACO training, 20% for administration, and less than 1% for marketing. The budget planned to utilize \$113,750 in rollover revenue from CY22. The CY23 Final

spending was \$602.255 and \$459,485 was spent on veterinary, \$12,857 on ACO training, \$127,578 on administration, \$2,335 on marketing. The Fund used \$4,687 from previous surplus.

Sheri presented the CY24 budget for the Fund. Sheri explained that the new proposed budget is \$658,020. This new total is from an estimated \$420,000 in tax donations/grants, \$100,000 FY25 state line item, \$168,000 rollover from 2023. The new proposed CY23 budget has the following allocations: 73% for veterinary services, 3% for ACO training, 25% for administration, <1% for marketing. 24% of the proposed CY24 budget spending would be from current surplus.

The Advisory Committee had no questions, or objections to the proposed CY24 budget. The CY24 Budget of \$658,020 was accepted.

#### III. FY24 Line Item/ Grants

Sheri stated that the FY23 budget line item of \$100,000 is 100% spent and had helped 719 animals with the help of additional \$25,715 in revenue from the MDAR admin account. Sheri stated that the Fund has also received a FY24 budget line item of \$100,000 and that was fully spent to help an additional 400 surgeries with the average cost of \$250.

Sheri presented that in 2023 The Stanton Foundation gave the Fund 2 grants totaling \$105,000

The Stanton Foundation granted the Fund an additional \$30,000 in June 2023 to help canines in need of emergency surgeries related to the reproductive system such as: pyometras, and dystocias. The Stanton Foundation Emergency grant was utilized from June 2023 through December 2023 and assisted 58 canines in emergency situations. Another grant of \$75,000 was given to the Fund in November 2023.

#### **IV. Spay/Neuter Voucher Program**

Sheri presented that the Fund has helped 20,118 animals to date equaling 2.95 million spent. The Fund hit 20,000 animals helped early January of 2024. The Fund currently had an additional 707 vouchers outstanding equaling \$164,165.

Kyle gave information on Fund's spay/neuter voucher program. Recently the program welcomed Friends of Franklin County Regional as a municipal partner and has 3 new provider contracts in process. Kyle presented that there are currently 650 plus animals on the MAF waitlist. Vouchers are currently being issued for vouchers requested as far back as April/May 2023. Voucher dissemination is currently at approximately \$60,000 a month. Current voucher redemption rate is about 63%. 77 vouchers had already been distributed in 2024.

Sheri presented that the Fund rolled out two new voucher program systems in the last few months. In late 2023, the Fund started a Voucher Day website to help streamline applications for voucher days on the Southshore. In January, 2024 the Fund created a waitlist tracking system so that applicants can watch a webpage that tells illustrates our voucher flow and how long the wait could be for them.

Sheri presented the Voucher Program's veterinary rates. The Voucher program had raised reimbursement rates as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 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 that we will evaluate if these rates are continuing to meet provider cost in May 2024.

#### V. Promotions/Events/Marketing

Sheri presented the 2024 tax donation billboards that would run from January - April through the MassDOT free PSA program.

#### VI. Animal Control Officer Training

Sheri stated gave a summary of the 2023 Core Competencies Training. The Fund initially scheduled two sessions but had to add a third session to meet the need. The Core sessions were held in-person in Northampton, in-person in Dedham and in-person and virtually in Oxford. 120 ACO and support staff signed up, 91 ACOs attended.

Sheri mentioned that in 2023 the Core training was updated and each attendee received a 20 page study guide. This study guide replaced the 120+ page Core binder from previous years. In 2023, the average testing score was 92%, which was a improvement from 89% the previous year.

Sheri mentioned that in an effort to comply with the department's effort to reduce paper the Fund also created two online portals. A continuing education submission portal for ACOs, and a ACO designation portal for municipalities. 2024 ACO Designations were modified and emailed in December of 2023. Sheri will report to the AC how the compliance is with the new system at the next meeting.

The Committee decide to set the next MAF AC meeting date of: Wednesday, May 15th at 10:30 AM



## **Advisory Committee Meeting**

1/10/24 Anniversary Year!



## AGENDA



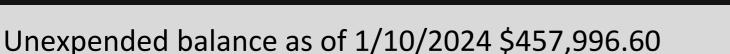


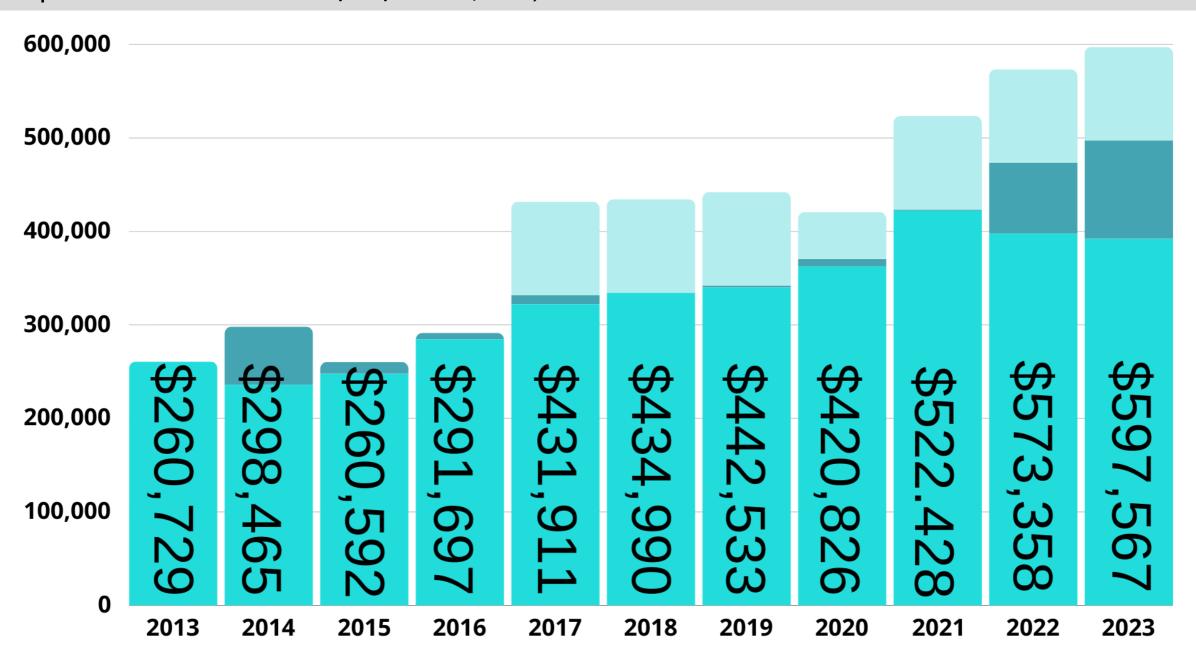
- I. Fund Totals and Expenditures A. Review of Balance Sheet/Budget
- II. Budget/End Of Year Report
- III. FY24 Line Item/ Grants
- **IV. Spay/Neuter Voucher Program** 
  - A. Numbers
  - B. Wait List
  - C. RFR Update

V& Promotions/ Events/ Marketing V& Animal Control Officers A. 2024 ACO Designations B. 2023 Core Training Summary C. RFR Update

D. CE Training

## FUND TOTALS AND EXPENDITURES







# FUND TOTALS AND EXPENDITURES



## How our donations have grown....

		\$	4,560,020.85				
		total	donations/grants	interest		line	e item
2	2013	\$	260,729.55		0		
1	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	\$	125,000.00
	2023	\$	496,469.45		1098.25	\$	100,000.00
		\$	3,881,509.80	\$ 3	3,511.05	\$	675,000.00

### 2023 Review Highlights

- Since Inception, spent • over 2.9 million helping over 19,900 cats and dogs
- Received 3,700 requests for help
- 1 in every four vouchers redeemed was for an animal needing urgent services
- 76% of funding spent on • veterinary care
- In 2023 458,390 spent on • helping 1,989 animals
- Hit 800 ACOs trained • through the Core



The Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund (Massachusetts Animal Fund), administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, responds to the Commonwealth's mission of reducing animal homelessness by providing no-cost spay/neuter/vaccinations to the state's most vulnerable cats and dogs. This program is primarily funded by the voluntary tax check-off (Line 33f) on the Massachusetts resident income tax form. Since inception in 2012, the Fund has spent over 2.9 million to help over 19,900 cats and dogs.

In 2023, the Fund received over 3,700 requests for assistance for local animals in need. One out of every four of the animals assisted needed urgent services for a life-threatening medical condition or spay/neuter so that they could stay with their families and not be relinguished. With your continued support in 2024, we can commit to meeting these pleas for help by providing these critical resources to our local cats and dogs across the Commonwealth.



#### Sheri Gustafson Program Coordinator 617-626-1740

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

#### SOCIAL MEDIA f fb.com/massanimalfund

🔀 @line33f Ø @line33f WWW.MASS.GOV/ANI



#### DONATIONS AND SUPPORT

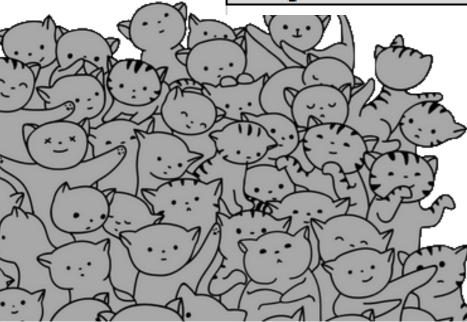


September-October 7th Annual ACO Core Competencies held in **3 locations across Massachusetts** 

## FUND TOTALS AND EXPENDITURES



Inception to date	Percentage of Revenue \$4,560,020	Expenses to Date \$4,117,672
Veterinary	65%	\$2,941,766.14
ACO Training	3%	\$122,170.87
Administration	22%	\$1,025,889.80
Marketing	<1%	\$27,201.27
Surplus	10%	\$442,348.77



Over 26,000 vouchers have been distributed.



### 2023 CY Final Numbers verses Budget

2023 Working \$650,000	Proposed Expenses	%
Veterinary	\$500,000.00	78%
ACO Training	\$18,920.00	3%
Administration	\$121,040.00	20%
Marketing	\$11,600.00	<1%
Surplus	(\$113,750.00)	
2023 Final Numbers	Actual Spent \$602,255.25	Actual Percentage
	-	Actual Percentage 76%
Final Numbers	\$602,255.25	
Final Numbers Veterinary	\$602,255.25 \$459,485.00	76%
Final Numbers Veterinary ACO Training	\$602,255.25 \$459,485.00 \$12,857.00	76% 2%



### **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

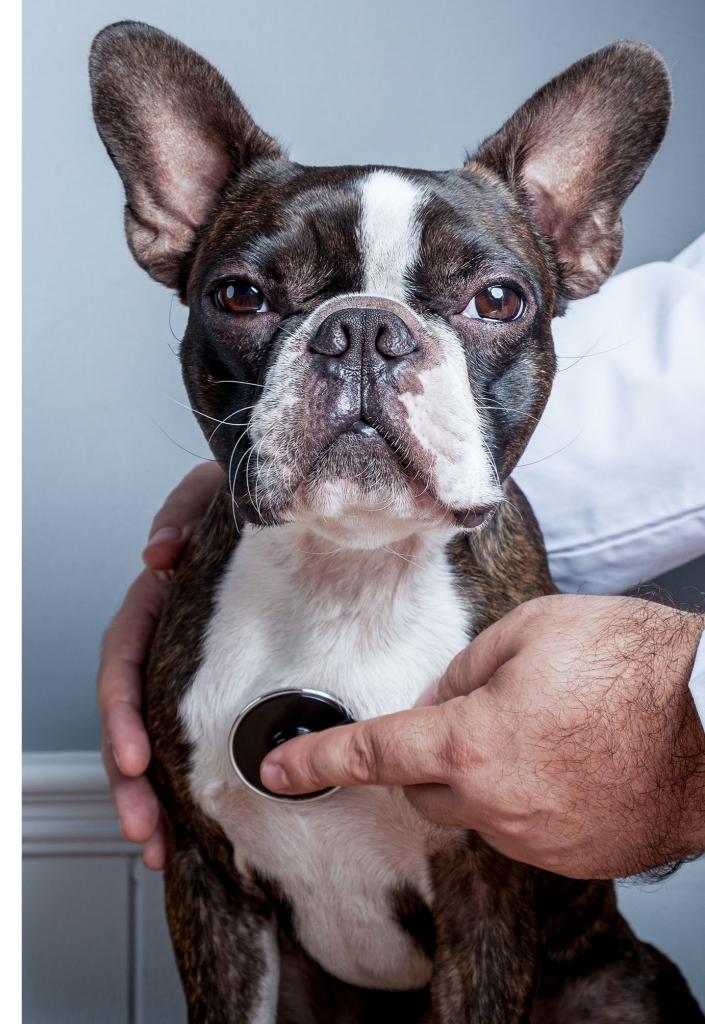
**APPROVED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 1.10.24** 

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 received in 2023 = \$105,000

Through the \$30,000 Emergency Grant

- 58 Canines Helped
- from 37 municipalities
- 49 Pyometra/ 9 Dystocia
- Average cost \$517
- Allowed us to send an additional 224 vouchers

Through the \$75,000 new Grant

 Started funding surgeries in Nov. Stay Tuned



Canines Helped



58 canines in need in Massachusetts received FREE spay/neuter assistance through The Stanton Foundation Emergency Grant. All 58 canines were by owned by lowincome MA residents, who couldn't afford to get lifesaving services for their dog on their own.

#### **Areas Supported**



Since the end of May, this grant has provided FREE services to canines in 37 municipalities through the collaborative effort of the Fund and 27 private veterinary and 6 municipal partners.

#### Program Impact



As mentioned above, the Fund was able to immediately issue 58 vouchers to canines in need of life-saving emergency surgeries. Since these expensive surgeries were generously covered by The Stanton Foundation, the Fund was able to send out an additional 224 vouchers to animals on our waitlist since the grant period started.



100%

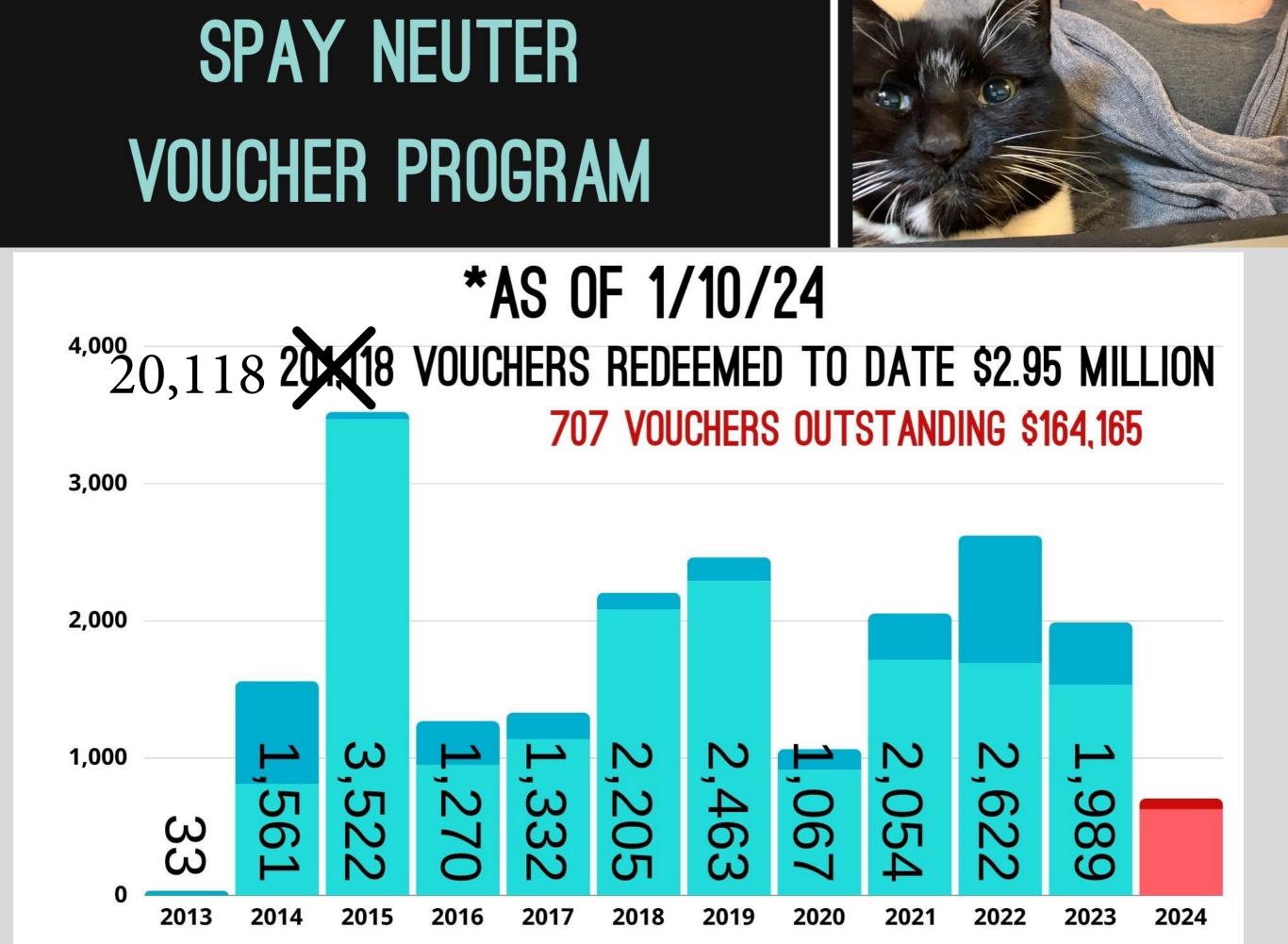
Thanks to The Stanton Foundation support, the owners and the 58 dogs whose lives were saved greatly benefitted from the FREE emergency services. These canines would not have survived without surgical intervention for these life-threatening medical conditions. 49 canines needed emergency FREE spay services to resolve a pyometra infection, and 9 canines needed emergency FREE life-saving dystocia spay services.

**Grant Utilized** Through May 30, 23' -Dec. 18, 23'



Lives

Saved



## SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM



### S/N Quick Notes:

Newest Providers-Friends of Franklin County Regional

3 new providers in process 1-Berkshire County 1-Plymouth County Current Waitlist--650 plus providers lists (\$144,800) -Requests currently being issued from April/May. -current distribution rate approx. \$60,00 a month

Currently redemption rate for 2023 vouchers is around 63% approx.

77 vouchers already issued in 2024

### New Voucher Day Website



OFFERED BY Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

#### **MAF Voucher Days**

Mass Animal Fund works together with veterinarians and local animal control officers to provide FREE spay/neuter services to cats and dogs owned by low-income residents of Massachusetts.

Link is only active when we are accepting applications. Please note Voucher Days have limited surgery spots available, and do fill up very quickly. Applicants will receive notice of approval and surgery spot within 1-2 business days.

REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED for the Voucher Day in Fall River 11/21/23 →

#### \*Do you need help getting your cat or dog fixed?

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON

ANIMAI FUND

#### We're having Voucher Day in Fall River on

#### 11/21/23!

Services are by appointment only fill out an application online to reserve your spot!

WWW.MASS.GOV/HOW-TO/MAF-VOUCHER-DAYS

#### SIGN UP TODAY!

Accepting cats ( under 5 years old) & dogs ( under 5 years old and 55lbs.)

> Need help, call 617-626-1790

\*ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON'S SPAY WAGGIN' IS WORKING TOGETHER WITH MASS ANIMAL FUND AND FALL RIVER ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS TO PROVIDE FREE SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES TO CATS AND DOGS OWNED BY LOW-INCOME MA RESIDENTS.

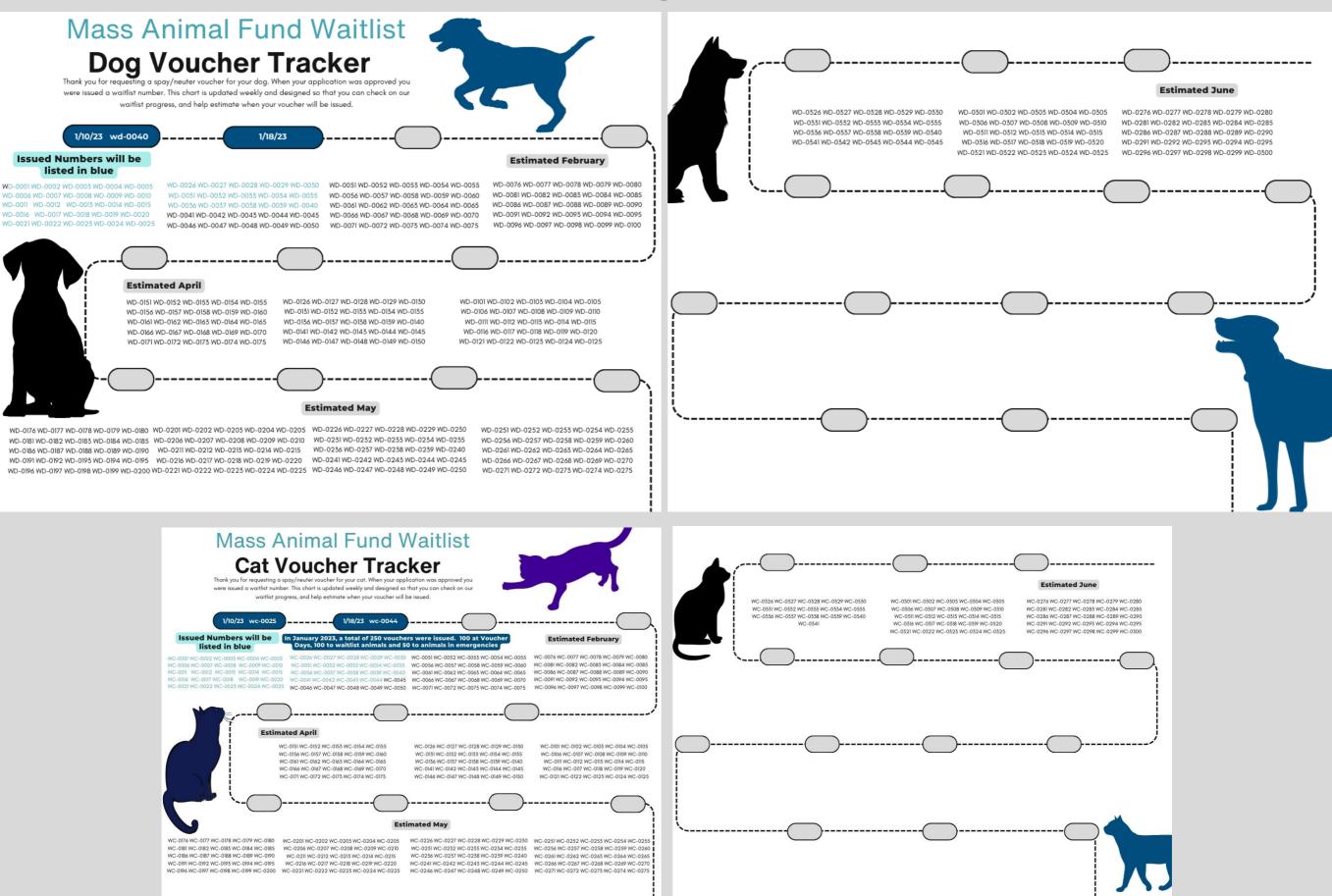
Made possible by donations on



THE DETAILS

CONTACTS

## **New Waitlist Tracking**



## SPAY NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM

## **Current Rates (revaluate in May 2024)**

\$150
\$200
\$250
\$300
\$350
· · ·

## SPAY NEUTER Voucher Program



### **Current Complication Rates**

These new rates have increased ave. cost to \$256

	<b>Complication Add-on Rates</b>			
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				

File Taxes. HELP ANIMALS!

## Line 33F

MASSACHUSETTS ANIMAL FUND

> Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

> > massDOT





MASSACHUSETTS ANIMAL FUND



File Taxes. HELP <u>ANIMALS!</u>



Mass.gov/AnimalFund

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

massDOT

Mass.gov/AnimalFund

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts** 

Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

## ACO TRAINING

2023 Core Summary 3 sessions

120 ACO signed up 91 ACOs attended

- Northampton (in-person)
- Dedham (in-person)
- Oxford NEW Location (in-person and virtual)

**2023 Core Changes** 

-Focusing on in-person learning

-Moving towards paperless

(saving roughly 25,000 sheets of paper)

New CE submission Portal (going well)

Designation Portal Updated giving it a new shot.



**2024** Goals

- Update MA Law book.
- NEW Core final exam video
- Increase Eblasts sent out 11 in 2023 to 10,780 recipients
- Increase ACO handouts short documents with procedural guidance

## 2023 Training Guide

In an effort to reduce waste and save paper the Core Competencies Slides, MA lawbook, and handouts are now available online on our ACO Resources page.

How did it work? Average testing score increased to 92% this year. Last year we were in the 89% 3 ACO needed retakes last year, none needed them this year.



ACO Core Competencies Training Guide



2024 ACO Designations emailed, and due back on Feb 1st, 2024. Last year we saw a huge drop in compliance. May need to revisit mailed designations if we don't get a significant amount in the next couple of weeks



## Next Meeting....

May?

