



2013-2019
**PROGRESS
REPORT**



**MASSACHUSETTS
ANIMAL FUND**

WWW.MASS.GOV/ANIMALFUND

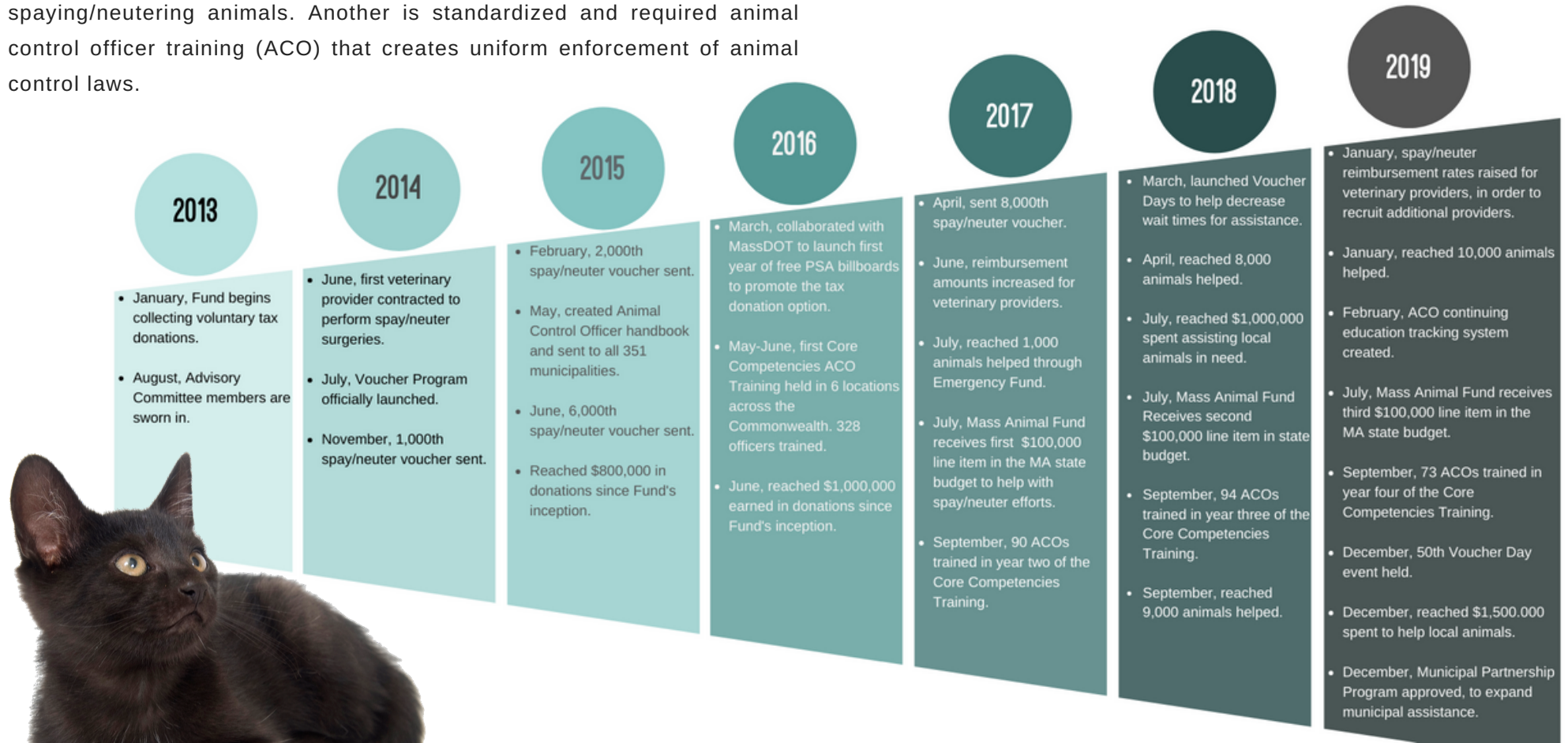
line 33F

MASSACHUSETTS ANIMAL FUND

Established on October 31, 2012

Animal homelessness is a problem that causes animals' lives to be lost to euthanasia, poses a public health and safety concern, and costs taxpayer money to pay for services for stray, abandoned, and feral animals and their offspring. It has been proven that sterilization of animals decreases not only the number of homeless and feral animals born each year, but it also decreases unwanted behavior in owned animals, including roaming and aggression, which are both factors that can lead to the surrender and euthanasia of animals. One solution to this problem is investing in spaying/neutering animals. Another is standardized and required animal control officer training (ACO) that creates uniform enforcement of animal control laws.

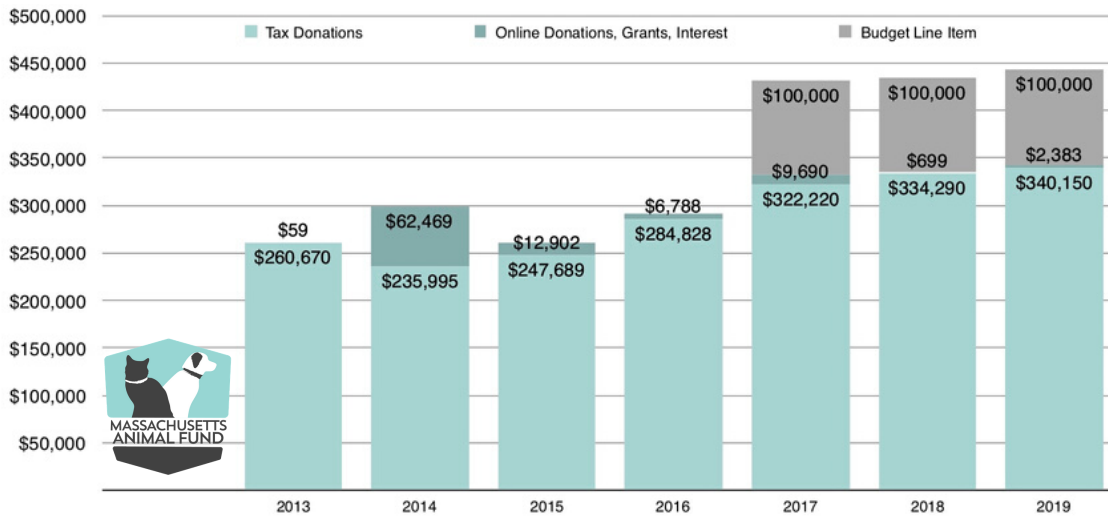
The Massachusetts Animal Fund works towards both of these solutions. On October 31, 2012, a law took effect that, in part, created the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund (Massachusetts Animal Fund). The Fund is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources with assistance from an advisory committee and seeks to end the problem of animal homelessness in Massachusetts. This program is primarily funded by the voluntary tax check-off (Line 33f) on the Massachusetts resident income tax form and by monetary donations.



MASS ANIMAL FUND

Line 33f

Mass Animal Fund Revenue Sources

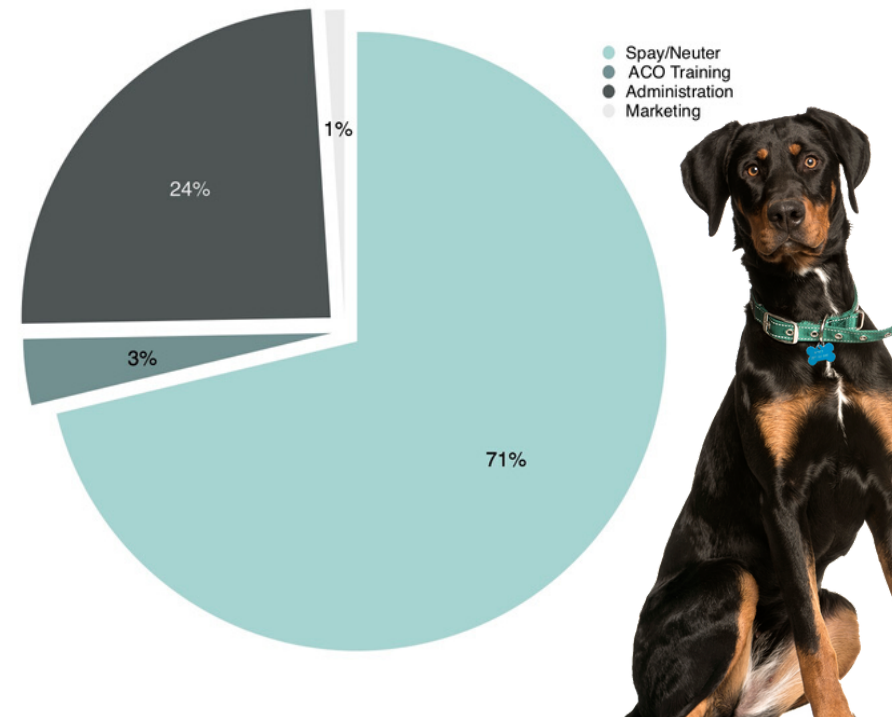


Massachusetts General Law Chapter 10, Section 35WW mandates that a portion of the funds collected by the Massachusetts Animal Fund be used by the Department of Agricultural Resources to offset costs associated with the vaccination, spaying, and neutering of homeless dogs and cats and to offset costs associated with the vaccination, spaying, and neutering of dogs and cats owned by low-income residents. In addition, Section 35WW of Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2012 mandates that the Fund must assist with the training of animal control officers consistent with MGL Chapter 140, Section 151C.

To date, the Fund has expended \$2,203,674 in the below allocations.

Since inception in 2012, the Fund has acquired \$2,420,840 to help address the needs of cats and dogs in the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Animal Fund relies primarily on donations from Massachusetts taxpayers, who have contributed 83% of this revenue through voluntary donations on Line 33f of the Massachusetts Income Tax Return. The Fund is one of six causes residents can choose from; others include the National Heritage and Endangered Species Fund, the Organ Transplant Fund, the Massachusetts AIDS Foundation, the Massachusetts United States Olympic Fund, and the Massachusetts Military Relief Fund. The Fund started collecting tax contributions on January 1, 2013.

Additional funding has been generously provided through Commonwealth of Massachusetts Budget Line Items of \$100,000 each in 2017, 2018 and 2019.



VOUCHER PROGRAM

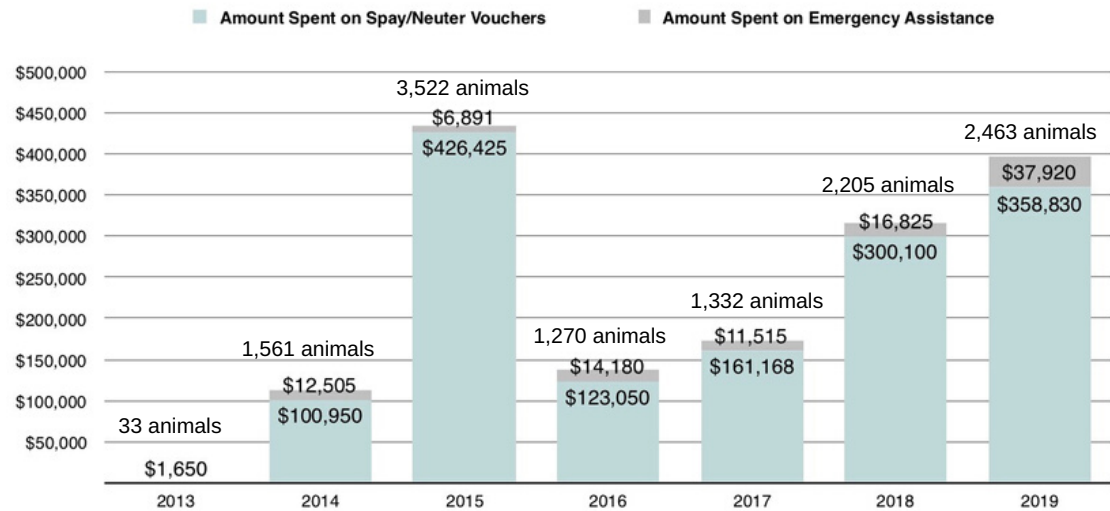
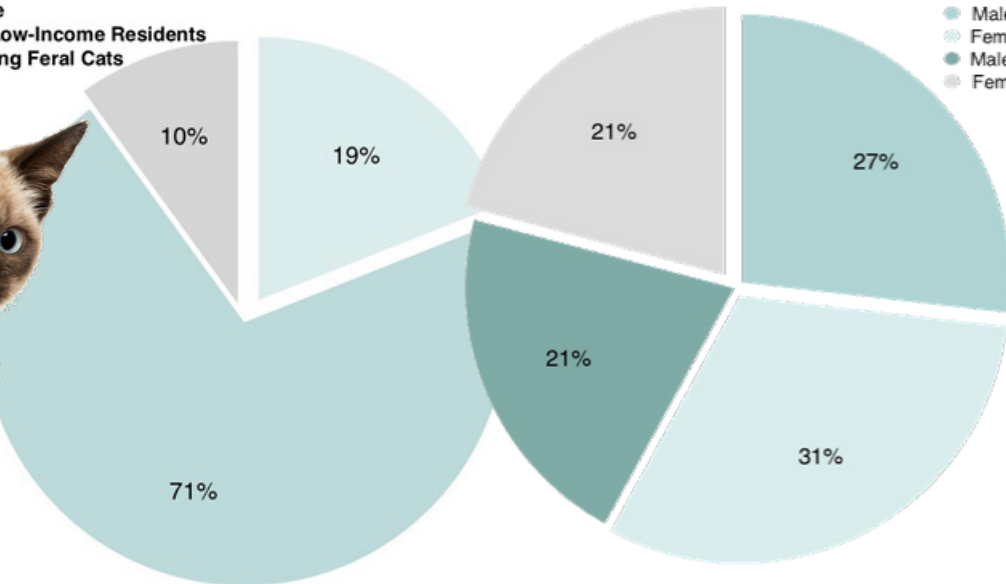
Established in July, 2014

The Fund partners with animal control officers and local veterinary providers to disseminate fee-free vouchers through this program. ACOs or providers may request vouchers for dogs and cats held in municipal shelters, dogs and cats owned by low-income Massachusetts residents, and for unsocialized free-roaming feral cats. Since Inception, the Fund has sent out over 15,000 vouchers to help local animals in need.

In addition the Fund has issued emergency assistance to over 1,700 animals in life threatening situations such as: animal hoarding, disease outbreak, animal cruelty cases and medical emergencies.

Below is a breakdown of categories of animals assisted since the start of the Voucher Program.

- In ACO Care
- Owned by Low-Income Residents
- Free-Roaming Feral Cats



Mass Animal Fund's Assistance to Local Animals

The Fund contracts with local veterinarians to participate in the Program by providing spay/neuter vaccination services to qualifying voucher recipients. Providers are reimbursed a flat rate per surgery based on the following tier system:

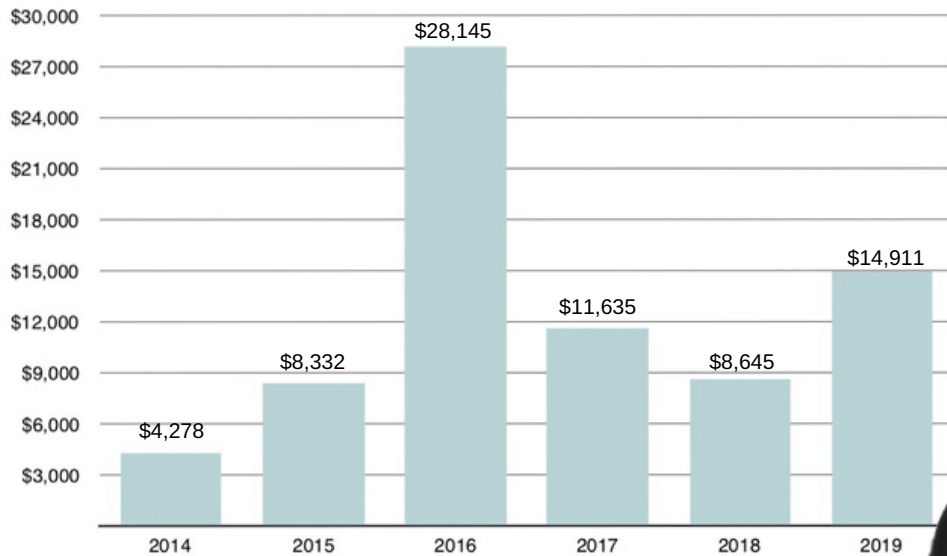
Tier	Service	Rate
Tier I	Cat neuter	\$75
Tier II	Cat spay/Small dog neuter (<50lbs.)	\$150
Tier III	Small dog Spay (<50lbs.) / Large dog neuter (>50lbs.)	\$225
Tier IV	Big dog spay (>50 lbs.)	\$300

Since inception, 45 veterinary providers have participated in the Voucher Program to provide spay/neuter vaccination services to cat and dogs in over 310 municipalities across the Commonwealth.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER TRAINING

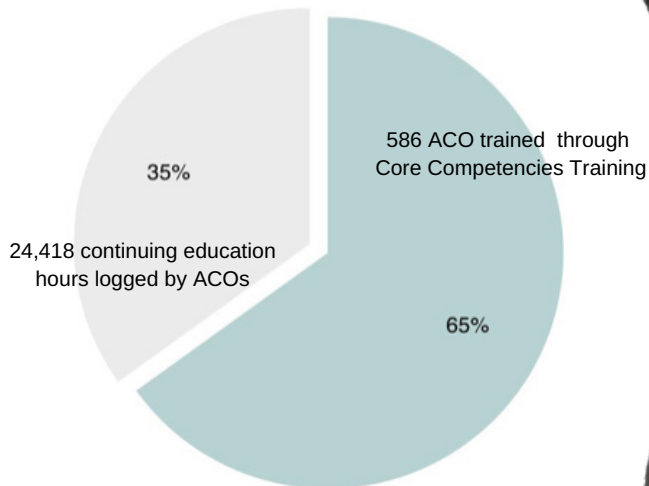
Created in May, 2015

■ Funds Spent on ACO Training and Materials



Percentage of Funds Spent on Training Category

● Core Training ● Continuing Education



Animal control officers have important responsibilities, including dealing with dangerous dogs, responding to reports of stray animals, and enforcing animal law violations. In addition, they often care for and adopt out shelter animals and many deal with wildlife conflicts. Improved training increases the professionalism of this important position in our cities and towns. In return this provides better care for our Massachusetts animals, increased public health and safety and more uniform and stronger enforcement of animal control laws.

In 2016, the Fund opened registration for the first sessions of the mandatory Animal Control Officer Core Competencies Training. The Core Competencies Program contracts current Massachusetts animal control officers to instruct their peers over two days in the content areas of: animal control laws, wildlife response, emergency preparedness, animal behavior, animal capture / safe handling, communications / public relations, and record keeping / report writing. In addition to the Core Training, animal control officers must complete pre-approved continuing education requirements to make sure they stay current with changes in the animal welfare field.

Mass Animal Fund supports municipal ACOs:

- Provides free and subsidized training opportunities
- Maintains a statewide ACO database and logs education credits
- Sends out annual *Animal Laws and Regulations in Massachusetts handbook*
- Provides monthly newsletter highlighting training opportunities
- Offers spay/neuter assistance and resources for local animals

MASSACHUSETTS ANIMAL FUND

Addressing the Need

Since the Voucher Program's start in July of 2014, the Fund has received over 18,000 requests for assistance and has disseminated over 17,000 vouchers. With 3,900 requests for assistance since January 2019, a 27% increase from last year, the need for assistance is steadily continuing while the funding available is variable and unable to meet the demands. The current income from donations on Line 33f on state tax forms – about \$305,000 annually – is simply not enough to provide the needed services to pets and homeless animals. Using established formulas, it is estimated that 7,689 new owned dogs and cats will require services each year in Massachusetts, which could cost the Fund much more than it receives from the tax mechanism. Our wait list for assistance is steadily growing, but you can help us get the word out about donating to help local animals in Massachusetts. Together, we can get closer to making sure all our animals have the resources they need.

Find out more.

WWW.MASS.GOV/ANIMALFUND

www.facebook.com/massanimalfund

www.twitter.com/line33f

www.instagram.com/line33f

617-626-1740



"We became aware of a hoarding situation. Of 33 cats, only 1 of the cats, an adult female, had ever been to a vet. With the vouchers MAF provided we were able to get the remainder spayed/neutered, get hernia repairs done, vaccinate and test them. Without the vouchers we would not have been able to afford all the medical assistance we had to provide these cuties."

"Brandy came to us as a found dog and was claimed by her family. Brandy is 7 years old. She was a bit thin and walked hunched over. We noted blood in her kennel the day prior to her spay. It turns out she had an open pyometra which we were able to resolve by spaying her. Her family (unaware of the pyometra) had been wanting to get help for her for a while but had been unable to afford this. Thanks to Mass Animal Fund she is home and healthy."



Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)

Sheri Gustafson
Program Coordinator

Cary Payton
Community Liaison

John Lebeaux
MDAR Commissioner

Michael Cahill
Director, MDAR Division of Animal Health

Advisory Committee

Kara Holmquist
Humane Representative

Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore
Veterinary Representative

Ray West
Pet Trade Industry Representative

Laura Marwell
Public Representative

Vacant
Animal Control Representative



"Scout is doing wonderful!
Thank you so much!"

As a low income single mom, vet bills are tough. Scout is my 5 year old son's best friend and I'm so happy programs like this exist to help keep him healthy!"

