

Humane groups join forces to spay/neuter small animals

Frederick—The Frederick County Humane Society has awarded Small Angels Rescue \$2,000 as part of a cooperative agreement to provide spay/neuter services for homeless small pets prior to adoption.

Small Angels Rescue takes gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats and chinchillas from animal shelters in Frederick and the surrounding counties, places the animals with temporary foster care families and then finds new lifetime homes for them. Small Angels will use the funds to spay and neuter some of the hundreds of guinea pigs, rats and chinchillas the group rescues each year.

Small Angels guinea pig coordinator Sue Wilmot said spaying and neutering helps slow the cycle of small animal overpopulation resulting from accidental or intentional breeding. Spaying and neutering also prevents reproductive cancers. The surgeries can reduce hormonal behaviors and aggression and thus increase an animal's ability to bond with another of the same species—an important factor, as most of these small animals need to live with a buddy in order to be happy.

“The funds from the Humane Society are invaluable to us, as spaying and neutering is a major expense for the rescue with a direct impact on our ability to improve the future lives of these small pets,” Wilmot said. “We therefore greatly appreciate and rely upon the ongoing generosity of the Humane Society as we share our commitment to the animals in our community.”

In previous years, the Humane Society has awarded generous grants to help fund the rescue's spay/neuter program. In its last fiscal year, the rescue spayed or neutered 88 animals; the Humane Society grant funded one third of the costs of those surgeries.

Humane Society Executive Director Brigitte Farrell said the agreement embodies her organization's mission to help reduce the homeless pet population. “We are pleased to be partnering with Small Angels in this effort. The cooperative agreement gives us the opportunity to expand our spay/neuter programs beyond cats and dogs by working with area rescues that focus on other homeless animal populations,” she said. “Small Angels Rescue is managed by an extremely dedicated group of volunteers who are committed to caring for small pets in the Frederick County area. We admire their dedication to small animals, who are, sadly, often viewed as disposable commodities.”

Since its founding in October 2003, Small Angels has rehomed more than 600 guinea pigs, 400 rats and 40 chinchillas. Overall, the organization has rehomed more than 2,000 animals.

Contacts

Sue Wilmot

Guinea Pig Coordinator
Small Angels Rescue
cavymum@comcast.net
301-829-5759
www.smallangelsrescue.org

Brigitte Farrell

Director, Frederick County
Humane Society
director@fchs.org
301-694-8300
www.fchs.org