

RIVER VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

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RIVER VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY IS INCREASING HARRISON COUNTY SPAYS AND NEUTERS

News Report October 18, 2021

Page 1 of 3

River Valley Humane Society (RVHS) was awarded a \$15,000 Spay Neuter Grant by the Harrison County Community Foundation (HCCF) Indiana. RVHS founders, volunteers and supporters deeply appreciate this incredible first time ever award. Proceeds are being used to increase Spays and Neuters throughout Harrison County.

Never before possible, we are able to secure and pay for quantities of cats numbering 10, 20, 30 and for multiple dogs, per property. Folks at farms, feed stores, private residences, and those feeding community cats now have spayed and neutered, vaccinated and healthy cats and dogs in their care. RVHS volunteers have been busy this year trapping and transporting cats and also helping with transportation for dogs.

In addition to the Grant resources, our Harrison County Government provides Spay Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) Vouchers/Coupons in the amounts of \$20 for cats and \$35 for dogs. These amounts are deducted from the total cost of the spay or neuter. Residents of Harrison County are allowed 2 Vouchers per year.

Utilizing both programs we work with each person who contacts us to provide spay neuter resources necessary to meet their needs whether it's one cat, one dog or lots of both. RVHS Certificate Assistance and SNAP Vouchers are available to all Harrison County residents. All veterinarians and spay neuter clinics in our region accept the SNAP Vouchers and RVHS Certificates including: other Indiana counties; Bloomington IN; Louisville/Jefferson County KY; Meade County KY and a bit further south have accepted RVHS Certificates and SNAP Vouchers. Since 2005 when the program started all vets and clinics are considered participants unless we are notified otherwise.

Animal Adoption Network, Harrison County Dept of Animal Control, HEART Humane Society and RVHS each have the option to schedule spays and neuters and then, utilizing our Grant, RVHS pays the assistance due.

There are no restrictions regarding which vets or clinics can be used by Harrison County residents. The pet owner or caretaker chooses the vet and pays the invoice balance after the Voucher and/or Certificate deductions are applied to the SN invoice total. We help people find SN services based on cost and location. While most people use our low cost options some will choose a vet based on being closer to home or where they can get an appointment more quickly.

We are fortunate to have affordable sn services available in our region although when writing the Grant last year I did not anticipate the spay neuter services reduction in 2021 due to COVID virus. After researching and securing additional SN services options we were able to overcome the reduction in those services and we have been providing the requests for SN assistance.

Thanks to the HCCF Grant we have had quantities of cats spayed and neutered at Alley Cat Advocates Clinic in Louisville KY all year, ACA was not slowed down by COVID. RVHS volunteers have trapped and transported. In addition a positive development is instead of relying solely on RVHS volunteers to transport their cats more people are transporting their own including quantities of 10 cats at a time which increases the number of cats overall who can be done. It can be a long drive, two round trips to ACA and having a vehicle that meets requirements can be challenging but well worth the effort. It's caught on, more people are familiar with Alley Cats, more are willing to transport and it's worked out great.

Harrison County Indiana has a 21 year history of providing Government funded SN assistance which started as Free Spays and Neuters then went to the Voucher Program after the shelter opened in 2005. I administered both of those programs for the County as a volunteer for 13 years. The HCCF Grant has greatly increased our ability to reach more people and animals in need.

What are the results of increased spays and neuters? Most likely all of these:

- Improved public health and safety due to rabies vaccinations at the time of spay neuter.
- Reduced population of strays.
- Reduced quantity of animals entering our shelter.
- Reduced euthanasia rates.
- Reduced wildlife and livestock predation by dogs and cats running at large.

Increased spay neuter helps address Dog Cat Overpopulation which is the driving force behind all animal shelter and rescue issues. RVHS remains committed to implementing measures aimed at preventing more homeless litters and ending Dog Cat Overpopulation.

River Valley Humane Society is a small all volunteer 501(c)3 grassroots group. In addition to spay neuter assistance we respond to complaints from concerned citizens, and we handle a wide range of animal related issues. Our volunteers are dedicated to Spay Neuter Rescue in rural, often remote, areas. As we have the past 20 years RVHS continues to provide traps, trapping, transportation, sn information, sn advice and spay neuter financial assistance services to residents in Harrison County.

Harrison County residents contact River Valley Humane Society for spay neuter information. 812-969-2615 rivervalleyhumanesociety@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/rivervalleyhumanesociety>

Tanya Gilley Tuell
502-396-0660 cell
President
River Valley Humane Society



UPCOMING and ONGOING EVENTS

River Valley Humane Society will be providing financial assistance to Harrison County residents for the following:

Alley Cat Advocates Spay Neuter Clinic Trap and Transport	Every Week
Cross Creek Vet Clinic Barbara Pepin, DVM	Spay Neuter Days
Bloomington Indiana Humane Society	Spay Neuter Days
Candice Wardrip, DVM	Spay Neuter Days
Public Vet Mobile Spay Neuter Service	Nov 6, 2021

Those interested in spay neuter services information please call 812-969-2615 or our cell phone 502-396-0660, River Valley Humane Society.

Some of our satisfied customers!
Made possible by the Spay Neuter
Grant awarded to River Valley
Humane Society by the Harrison
County Community Foundation and
thanks to Harrison County Spay
Neuter Assistance Program.



Daniel S. and his dog Daisy. She
showed up as a stray and now
she's living the good life, spayed,
vaccinated, microchipped, safe
and loved.

