

Small animal rescue earns spay/neuter grant

Frederick—The Frederick County Humane Society has awarded a \$2,000 spay/neuter grant to a nonprofit, all-volunteer small animal rescue based in Frederick County.

Small Angels Rescue takes gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats and chinchillas from regional animal shelters, places the animals with temporary foster care families and then finds new lifetime homes for them. The Frederick County Humane Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the humane treatment of animals. Small Angels will use the grant to spay and neuter some of the hundreds of guinea pigs and chinchillas the group rescues each year.

Small Angels guinea pig coordinator Sue Wilmot said the grant brings a number of benefits for small animals. Spaying and neutering helps slow the community's cycle of small animal overpopulation resulting from accidental or intentional breeding. Spaying and neutering also prevents the development of reproductive cancers and other conditions. The surgeries can reduce hormonal behaviors and aggression and thus increase an animal's ability to bond with another of the same species of either sex.

"The grant from the Humane Society is invaluable to us, especially as the costs of spay/neuter surgeries have risen sharply recently," Wilmot said. "There is also a growing demand for our services to care for and rehome abandoned guinea pigs and chinchillas. We therefore appreciate and depend upon the Humane Society's ongoing financial support as we work together to improve the lives of animals in our community."

In each of the past two years, the Humane Society has awarded Small Angels a \$1,500 grant. In its last fiscal year, the rescue spayed or neutered 96 animals; the Humane Society grant funded nearly one-third of those surgeries.

Humane Society Executive Director Brigitte Farrell said the grant embodies her organization's mission to help reduce the homeless pet population. "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," she said. "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 nearly 500 guinea pigs and nearly 30 chinchillas. Overall, the organization has rehomed more than 1,500 animals.

Contacts

Sue Wilmot

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

Brigitte Farrell

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