



HUB CITY ANIMAL PROJECT – 3RD ANNUAL FORUM October 14, 2017

Hub City Animal Project (HCAP) hosted its 3rd Annual Forum at the Spartanburg County Public Library Barrett Room on Saturday, October 14th, 2017 from 10 am to 12 noon. The purpose of the Forum was to allow animal welfare organizations, municipalities, and veterinarians to connect, share challenges, and explore possible collaborative solutions for effectively fighting animal homelessness in Spartanburg.

Ingrid, Lora and Valerie welcomed the participants and gave out the first few door prizes. They asked participants to introduce themselves and share a short success story about their organization.

- Mike Johnson, City of Spartanburg – The TNR program has returned 1,800 cats to field to date this year with the PetSmart Grant and in working with Animal Allies. He explained that “return in field” means the animal is taken care of in the field and does not go to a shelter. His success story was finding a dog in Duncan Park, scanning it and reaching the owner. The dog was stolen from Greenville and they were able to return the dog to the owner that same day. This is a good example of them trying to cut down on shelter use and City expenses.
- JW Boom, Project PAWW – They are a nonprofit group that goes out into the community to educate and keep animals with their owners. Poverty and lack of education are the biggest obstacles. His success story was coming across a dog that had been shot and being able to secure vet care for the dog. The owner could not afford care and would have had to surrender the dog – happy ending!
- James Nelson, County of Spartanburg – His department runs animal control, litter control and property maintenance. Last November County Council approved a TNR program. They partner with Animal Allies and have done 856 surgeries to date and are shooting for 1,000 by November. They scan every animal and put them on their website, and they also cover many animal cruelty cases. He urged us to remember that each case also has a human element and that is why they are not all released to the media.

- Angel Cox, Spartanburg Humane Society – Success is that their current live release rate (or save rate) is at 96%. This past year they took in 50% more than average and for the first time they have created a waiting list, and they care for the most vulnerable first. They have opened their low-cost vet clinic 3 days a week and have set up payment plans. Dogs Playing for Life is coming to the shelter to teach socialization skills. This will help increase adoptions because when people can see the dogs playing with other dogs outside they are more likely to adopt them.
- Christina Richards and Nikki Gilbert, Animal Allies Clinic – Christina says that they are booked and are outgrowing their space. They are working to get another vet on board. Their success is that they have a new technician who is doing fabulous work. She shared this quote: “You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”
- Lisa Gosnell, Critter Connection - They are a small non-profit founded in 1999. They have been involved in TNR for a long time and were responsible for one of the 1st feral colonies near Converse Plaza. Their volunteer-based operation works in rescue, rehabilitation, rehoming and education in schools.
- Kris Johnson, Critter Connection – She is an Animal Allies board member and works only in TNR. Partnering with Animal Allies she has done over 90 surgeries so far this year, and 68 last year.
- Tami Desmond, Foster Paws – They are a foster-based organization that takes cats that come into the emergency clinic whose owners can’t afford to treat them. Her success story is about a kitten found by an employee at USC Upstate named Diamond. They helped the employee foster and the employee ended up keeping Diamond. So far, this year, they have had about 250 in foster care and adopted out about 500.
- Jennifer and Becky Land, Monroe’s Mighty Mission – They provide 700 to 800 pounds of pet food to Mobile Meals that goes to about 175 homes. That gets them in the door and then they help with other needs such as spay/neuter and vet care. Success was helping provide vet care for a young man who found a dog that he named Raven who needed diaphragmatic hernia surgery. After an additional surgery Raven and his owner are enjoying hikes.
- Lindsey Deon, Speak For Animals – They have been offering low cost spay/neuter since 2003 in zip codes with high shelter intake. They offer a SPAYMANIA programs and also knock on doors. She told a story in the 29303 zip code, there were several pit bulls tied up all around a house because their owners had gone to prison. The one tied to the front door had already had 9 litters at 5 years old. They helped get these animals spayed/neutered and into better situations.

- Dana Mayer, Paws, Prayers and Promises – They work in TNR and keeping animals in their homes by providing food and vet care. After 10 years of TNR they have reached 5,500 cats. Success is when a messy cat showed up at a BBQ restaurant, they found out the owner had died and found a new home for him and named him Sunshine.

We then welcomed our guest speaker Becca Boronat with No Kill South Carolina. She is also with the Charleston Animal Society. No Kill SC is funded by the PETCO Foundation and the initiative is about becoming a no kill community, one step at a time, eventually reaching the entire state. She took us through the steps of creating an infrastructure for humane animal welfare in foster homes and shelters, in order to optimize quality care and maximize lifesaving for felines and canines. Creating “A State of Kind,” they are a research-based initiative striving to decrease shelter intake and increase live release rate. No Kill has several key resource centers across the state and well as partners.

We then drew for more door prizes and Lora and Valerie gave updates:

USC Upstate students will soon be reaching out to help our partner organizations develop marketing materials and fundraising ideas.

Grants will be announced at FURMAGEDDON II and checks will be mailed out by early November.

Valerie and Ingrid participated in a podcast on the Northwest Corner.

Please send us updates or additions for our Partners page on the HCAP website.

Ingrid Norris, Outreach Director, shared information with participants about a recent study that explored the re-homing of cats and dogs in the U.S. That study highlighted five primary categories for rehoming: Pet Related, Family Related, Housing Related, Resource Related and Other. We explored how partners are helping in these areas and what areas might need attention. Ingrid then shared some highlights of intake/outcome data for Spartanburg County animals for the years 2012-2016. The news: total cat and dog euthanasia is going down (temperament and health more of a reason now than space), cat intake has been relatively stable (will recent TNR efforts start to affect this?), there has been a small decrease in dog intake. Those partners with intake/outcomes were encouraged to start reporting their data to Shelter Animals Count. Ingrid finished the session with an example from Speak For Animals of how we can help target services through using GIS mapping software.

Finally, the results of the sticky note exercise:

Imagine the Spartanburg of the future: a true lifesaving community for animals. What does it look like?

What programs does it have?

- 1) Partnerships/Collaborations
 - Countywide
 - Stop sending animals to Greenville
 - Establish a true no kill shelter in the county
 - Low cost medical care
 - Veterinarians that provide low cost spay/neuter
 - County wide shelter
 - One mindset on the total problem
- 2) Intake Diversion/Safety Net/Owner Retention
 - Behavior Hot Line
 - Low Cost Training Classes
 - Complete buy-in by all groups
 - Help low income families with vet care, food, etc.
- 3) Animal control/Sheltering/Rescues
 - County owned and operated shelter
 - More TNR
 - Shelter Laws
 - Public Information accessible
 - Have animal control do return to field to relieve shelter intakes
 - Self-compliance by citizens
 - More help for owners to retain pets
- 4) Other
 - Education, education, education
 - Stronger laws to protect animals

Respectfully submitted,
Your HCAP Team