

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Kent A. Leonhardt, Commissioner
Joseph L. Hatton, Deputy Commissioner



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To our Friends at the Federation of Humane Organizations of West Virginia:

Since its inception, the West Virginia Spay Neuter Program has faced the challenge of trying to fund all the requests it receives for assistance. Most of the time, potential grantees request more than double the amount in the spay neuter fund—and this, in turn—reduces both the impact and potential of the program. Nonetheless, grantees have been grateful for the assistance, even when we weren't able to fully meet their needs.

This dilemma was alleviated last year with a generous donation of the Mug-Z-Moo grant from our partners in FOHO. We understand that it took a significant amount of work for you to secure these funds, and that they benefit more than just WVSNP. The Department of Agriculture has always maintained that WVSNP plays a big part in resolving the pet overpopulation problem, but that no one can handle it entirely. We also recognize your prudent use of funds to improve clinics and service to rural communities.

Due to Mug-Z-Moo, WVSNP broke all prior records last year, awarding \$1,144,324.89 to a record number of grantees, and completing more than 17,500 alterations. Looking ahead to 2024, we have an even higher number of applications. The impact of FOHO via Mug-Z-Moo, and the individuals who invested time and effort to make these permanent, positive changes to our communities is deeply appreciated. WVDA applauds your dedication and commitment to advance the spay and neuter program in West Virginia.

Very truly yours,

Kent A. Leonhardt