



**#SpayTogether – Texas – Palm Valley Animal Society  
Clinic  
June 22-24, 2020**

**Summary Report**

Clinic dates; June 22-24. Clinic held at Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Center in Edinburg, in partnership with Best Friends Animal Society (BFAS) and Palm Valley Animal Society (PVAS).

Results: 221 total surgeries in 3 days, cats and dogs previously adopted by PVAS intact due to Covid-19 shutdown of clinic spay/neuter services. Backlog 1,000 surgeries.

The Animal Balance team included only 2 techs (Elsa Kohlbus and Pam Dickens) and 3 vets (Dr. Carter for day 1 only, Dr. Bruce, Dr. Coakley).

Thanks to the ongoing relationship that we have established with this group, we were able to pull together and hold a clinic with a true "skeleton crew." We worked out of the conference room at the PAWS center, with no more than 10 volunteers and staff at any time. All of the check in was handled by the PAWS staff and appropriately spaced out for safety and prevention of virus spread.

The maintenance team from PVAS transported the majority of the equipment from the Trenton Rd. facility prior to our arrival, allowing for setup of the clinic to be completed by only two AB team members.

Clinic began on Monday, 6/22. With three vets on hand for the first day, we utilized one of them to assist with induction and training of volunteers. Dr. Coakley worked with two volunteers from the Donna North HS Veterinary Assistant Program to teach them how to safely and efficiently administer the induction drugs. Safely working with the students and instructor from Donna North has been a highlight of past campaigns in this location, and we were thrilled to have this opportunity to work more one on one with a couple of them to help develop their skills and better integrate them into our programs. Training local volunteers on the technical aspects of the clinics will help make these programs more sustainable, especially in times when it is difficult to bring in volunteers from afar.

We will now be able to integrate these volunteers into our official team roster moving forward. Students from Donna North and volunteers from PVAS also assisted in recovery of our patients. The PAWS team scheduled a rolling intake/discharge through the side door, which meant that no owners had to enter the building and all client facing interaction was handled by two (very hard working) staff members.

Day 2 was all cats. We have found that it is most efficient and comfortable for the animals to separate dogs and cats as much as possible. The Donna North students handled all of the anesthetic induction, under the supervision of Elsa Kohlbus and Pam Dickens. Pam and Elsa did all prep and

surgical monitoring. Drs. Coakley and Bruce did surgery. Everything went quite smoothly. No issues to report.

Day 3 was back to dogs. Once again everything ran smoothly. The small team worked incredibly efficiently and collaboratively to ensure that all patients received the best care possible. We are happy to report that there were no major complications or anesthetic events, etc. during this clinic.

We know that the surgical backlog at PVAS/PAWS is over 1,000 animals, so we are so happy that we could assist in helping ease this burden on the staff at those shelters. As we approach our one-year anniversary of working with these groups, we are happy to report that our working relationships are strong and collaborative. The team at PVAS is always welcoming and supportive, which is incredibly helpful when we have to pivot due to external circumstances such as Covid-19. Flexibility is key in these situations, and the PVAS team is always willing/able to change course when the safety of staff and volunteers is at risk.

One happy story.... The gentleman in the photographs brought in 7 dogs that he had on his property and was able to get them all sterilized during our clinic. One of the females was pregnant and we can speculate that other litters would have been born if these animals had not been able to be sterilized during this clinic. He was incredibly grateful and clearly loved all of his dogs.

Also included in the photos is a picture of Donna North student Arleen, with a smiling kitten. Arleen began volunteering with us several months ago, when the students worked with us as part of their class schedule. Arleen was one of a handful of students that returned on Saturdays to assist and participated in this clinic. Watching her learn, gain confidence and skills that she will utilize as she moves forward in her goal to become a veterinarian, has been one of the most rewarding parts of working with these students.

