



#SpayTogether Report

State: California
Target: 555 surgeries in specific zip codes & training to increase capacity
Partner: Pasadena Humane Society, CA

Animal Balance's Director and Program Director met with Dr. Mat Toscano, the Medical Director and Head Vet Tech to discuss their training needs. It was identified that the tech division, although enthusiastic, were lacking confidence and skills. All recognized these skills, once done repeatedly, would be acquired very quickly. It was decided that Pam Dickens, AB's Technician Trainer, and Billie Lambert, AB's Recovery Lead, would train the prep and recovery Techs during a 5-day clinic in August. This would enable the Pasadena Humane Society to double their daily capacity to 100 plus surgeries.

Due to the Pandemic, we kept the team as small as we could and ensured that everyone was comfortable with the MASH and training plan. In 5 days, this team broke all their previous records and trapped and sterilized 567 community cats across Los Angeles. Even though this event was not considered part of #SpayTogether, it was a tremendous success and allowed the next step to happen.

The PHS team then held TNR clinics each Sunday throughout September, trapping cats in specific zip codes in Pasadena, and sterilizing another 568 community cats. Both events combined the total is 1,137 cats trapped and sterilized in Los Angeles in just 10 days.

Training Summary by Pam Dickens

PHS is an amazing facility with state-of-the-art equipment and staff.

1. Plan was in place for one-way flow for COVID-19 safety
2. Senior staff had an organized process for each area to be staffed each day, intake, runners to transport cats, areas for each trappers cats sectioned off, cleaners/feeders for post op, vaccine prep, RVTs for prepping and administering pre op meds, prep teams, recovery teams
3. Great staff of very capable technicians and assistants
4. Each cat received; intubation, sterilization, rabies/FVRCPC, Right ear tip, Revolution, Meloxicam and, If needed, Convenia

Observations were that the staff had the skills needed but lacked confidence in some skills and this transferred to a slower pace than is needed for true high-volume s/n. The Veterinarians were all extremely fast and needed the prep teams to speed up to keep pace. Everyone always pitched in to help one another.

Training involved getting a handle on how good the skills were for the assistants (all were good just slow) and next implementing these skills in real time. We also followed a head to tail routine so that it became

normal and things would not be forgotten. By the 3rd day, each team was extremely capable and the less confident assistants were intubating successfully. We were able to have the more senior techs/assistants teach the newer people and they all seemed to enjoy this.

Routine things were reinforced by following a routine with each and every cat, once a cat was asleep it was either brought to a prep table or a prep team person grabbed a kitty. Once on the prep table they had to ensure cat was breathing well, check the sex of the cat and if female proceed to intubate, next perform ear tipping, apply flea/tick medicine, prep, Call for pick up or transport to surgery.

Isoflurane gas and non-rebreathing circuits were utilized for anesthesia. Techs/assistants administered isoflurane or oxygen and were able to monitor and troubleshoot any needs for the cats. Machines were tested for leaks by the technicians each morning.

Awesome experience, great people and they did it!

Spay/Neuter Data

TNR during 5 day July event that we were able to get addresses in required zip codes	25
Shelter feline intake from July 1-Sept 30 from required zip codes that were spay/neutered and RTD'd, TNR'd or adopted	150
TNR Sundays from Aug-Sept all in required zip codes	393
Total cats that fit the requirement for #SpayTogether grant	568
TNR during 5 day July event (minus 25 cats due to confirming their zip code fit the requirement) not confirmed in required zip codes	569
Grand Total	1137

*full data breakdown is on ticker and also on a spreadsheet that has been shared.

Story

Christie Shilling, who is the Director for the Park Avenue Foundation and was facilitating the #Spaytogether grant funds, contacted Animal Balance's Director at the end of June. A kind community member, Mario Santos, had heard mews and followed the sound, only to find 6 kittens in a trash can. Christie asked that we spay/neuter these kittens through the #Spaytogether program. When we contacted Mario, he told us that he was finding homes for all of the kittens. We explained to him that this project is a trap, neuter and return clinic and as such, all cats will have their ears tipped, as that is the international sign that the cats have been sterilized; any trapper would know, this meant those kittens were fixed and would not retrap them. We gave him a choice of having these kittens ears tipped through this program, or to wait until the last day and Dr. Mat Toscano said he would spay/neuter them and not tip their ears, if he preferred that, as he was adopting them out. Mario was impressed with the whole process and that he was involved in the solution and said he would have their ears tipped.

"I love animals and it was my duty to save them when I found them they had eyes infection their eyes were closed and with some flu thanks God I saved them and now they look very healthy and beautiful. My brother, he will adopt 2 and I will keep the other 3 yes, please you can tipped their ears just in case they get lost, animal control will know that the cats are already spayed/neutered." Mario Santos



