

Maddie's® Spay/Neuter Program for Feral Cats and Pets of Low-Income Residents in Dane County, Wisconsin

Many doctors participating in this program generously provided add-on services to feral cat surgeries, such as free or low-cost rabies vaccines, de-worming and other minor treatments like abscess drainage.

In addition, FVRCP vaccinations and FIV and FeLV tests were provided free of charge courtesy of Angel's Wish, a no-kill cat rescue organization, and the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin.

As a result of the program:

- Veterinarians became familiar with feral cat conditions and issues, as most of the doctors had never had contact with feral cats before.
- Many doctors gained the skills to do pediatric spaying and neutering through this program.
- The doctors made many new connections with local rescue groups and realized opportunities to work with them on other programs, such as neuter before adoption of rescue animals
- During the Project, the Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) was no-kill for feral cats. The DCHS started a feral cat adoption program to place feral cats in appropriate settings.
- Because of blood tests taken at the time of surgery, the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine was able to publish a research paper documenting the exceptionally low prevalence of infectious disease among the local feral cat population.