



## Palm Valley Animal Center Campaign Report November 2019



In November of 2019, Animal Balance, supported by a grant from Best Friends Animal Society, made possible by Maddie's Fund, brought a team to South Texas to hold the third MASH style, high volume spay/neuter clinic to provide assistance to shelters in the Rio Grande Valley. This campaign is part of the AB USA program. Together with staff and volunteers at Palm Valley Animal Center and the Laurie P. Andrews PAWS Adoption Center, the team safely sterilized 161 dogs and cats between 11/7-11/9/19.

This project was the third MASH clinic in what will be a continued collaboration between AB, PVAS, and BFAS to further reduce the lifesaving gap at these shelters and bring the RGV to "No-Kill" by 2025, in conjunction with the national effort being made by BFAS.

With a team of seven, including one volunteer veterinarian, two veterinary technicians, and four recovery volunteers from across the country, Animal Balance staged clinics in the warehouse building at PVAC and the surgery clinic at PAWS. In addition to holding one day of clinic at PVAC, we were also able to utilize equipment brought over from the old Harlingen clinic to start building out a more permanent clinic space at this location. We are excited to continue working on making this space to make it usable for all visiting veterinarians and the team at PVAC and PAWS.



Following two successful campaigns in August and October, this small, efficient team of seven volunteers traveled from Austin, TX and Bend, OR to participate in what was for most, their first Animal Balance campaign. We were excited to welcome new members to the Animal Balance family and to introduce them to our friends at PVAC and PAWS. Our goal for this campaign was to sterilize 150 animals and we surpassed our goal, sterilizing 161 cats and dogs.



In addition to focusing on the short-term success of the project (meeting number goals), Animal Balance focuses on the longer-term goals of building relationships and igniting social change in the areas in which we work. As this project continues to move forward, we are continuing to adapt to better serve the community and our local partners. Providing spay/neuter support to these shelters is having an immediate life-saving impact. Because they had been spayed/neutered in the previous two days of clinic, the team from PVAC was able to transport 130 dogs to Houston on 11/9 for a Super Adoption Event. We were thrilled to hear that 120 of those dogs were adopted during the event. Animals are more easily adopted into homes if they are spayed/neutered. They move out of the shelter system more quickly and it allows the shelter staff more time to catch up on the

ongoing flow of animals entering the shelter. As we continue our work providing spay/neuter to local shelters, we hope to eventually be able to help decrease the number of animals actually entering the shelter by providing high quality, high volume MASH style spay/neuter services for public as well as the shelter animals.

Animal Balance considered this campaign a great success and looks forward to continuing our partnership with BFAS and their shelter partners in an effort to save lives in Texas through spay/neuter and social change. We are committed to providing support that will reduce euthanasia at these shelters and help meet the goals set forth by BFAS.