

ANIMAL BALANCE USA

Campaign Report Hillsborough County, Florida
November 2019



In October of 2019, Animal Balance was contacted by authorities in Hillsborough County, Florida to assist with the sterilization of more than 300 small breed dogs that had been seized by county animal control following the raid of a local grooming shop/puppy mill. Knowing that many longtime and frequent AB volunteers lived in the area, the AB team felt that despite an extremely tight timeline, we could coordinate a team and help the shelter prepare these dogs for adoption, moving them out of the shelter faster and helping “unclog” the system from this unexpected influx of animals. The animals were all being held in care at an off-site building, cared for by staff from the Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center, Red Rover, and FLSARC. The dogs required care around the clock and were utilizing immense resources from an already strained shelter.

Utilizing the clinic facilities located at the Pet Resource Center, Animal Balance volunteers worked in conjunction with staff from the PRC to successfully sterilize not only 300+ puppy mill dogs, but also worked to sterilize all remaining animals in the shelter that were eligible for sterilization, ensuring that the team was caught up on surgeries at the end of the week. With a team of 19 volunteer Florida licensed veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and recovery volunteers from across the country, Animal Balance worked for five days between Nov. 6-10 to safely sterilize 341 cats and dogs. Approximately 300 of the dogs were small breed dogs from the puppy mill case.

Animal Balance is grateful to the team from the Hillsborough County Pet Resource center for graciously allowing our team to work in their space to meet this goal. Veterinarians and technicians from the PRC staff joined forces with AB volunteers, providing an incredible example of collaboration, one of an critical component in addressing the needs of the communities that we are serving. This campaign also highlighted the dedication of the Animal Balance Animal Warriors, who did not hesitate to jump at the opportunity to assist these dogs. Special thanks to our AB volunteers from the Tampa area who took time off work on short notice and showed up every day to ensure that each of these dogs received the highest quality and most attentive care.



