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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **WVDA ANNOUNCES SPAY AND NEUTER GRANT AWARDS**

**Charleston, W.Va.** – The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) has announced grant awards for the West Virginia Spay and Neuter Assistance Program. There were 60 applications requesting more than \$1 million in grant funding. Thirty-six projects will initially receive funding.

“I am extremely pleased with the process my staff and volunteers took in determining award recipients. We brought in people outside the department to help review and rank applicants,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. “This is all a part of our effort to ensure good, transparent government.”

The Spay and Neuter program was established in 2013 but was unfunded until House Bill 2552 was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Jim Justice in 2017. The purpose of these grants is to offer spay/neuter services at the county level. Eligible entities included county or municipal shelters, animal control agencies and nongovernmental, 501(c)(3), entities incorporated in West Virginia. Individual pet owners were not eligible for direct grant funding.

“Some applicants have asked about the possibility of a potential second round of awards. We wish we could fund all the eligible applications, but the pet food fees collected, which funds the program, falls short of the funds requested. We intend to allocate all funds that are available,” said WVDA Chief of Staff Norman Bailey “We are happy to see such an interest in the program and are hopeful that additional funds will be allocated.”

If additional funds become available, the WVDA plans to award monies to projects that were not initially funded in a second round of awards. For the full list of the grantees click here:  
<https://agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/executive/Documents/2018%20WV%20Spay.pdf>.

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