



# MIDLAND COUNTY VOUCHER PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Midland County Voucher Program?**

The Midland County Voucher Program provides pet owners who reside in the unincorporated area of Midland County a \$70 discount on spay/neuter surgeries for cats/dogs to help control pet overpopulation.

### **Who is eligible to qualify for vouchers?**

Any pet owner residing *within the unincorporated area of Midland County* who is able to provide proof of address in the form of a utility bill or a driver's license to a participating veterinary clinic.

### **How did this program get started?**

Midland Humane Coalition (MHC) initiated the Voucher Program and advocates controlling the overpopulation of pets and ending euthanasia by encouraging the community to have their pets fixed.

With the success of the City of Midland's spay/neuter voucher program, MHC recognized a need for a similar program in Midland County.

In October 2018, MHC approached Midland County Commissioner Court with the request for the County to establish a voucher program offering *County residents* a \$70 discount for their pets' spay/neuter surgeries through participating veterinary clinics. The County agreed to the Voucher Program with the stipulation that MHC assist in administration of the voucher reimbursement process.

### **How is this program funded?**

Since 2018, Midland County has allocated \$120,000 towards the Voucher Program. The County is not obligated to pay any voucher in excess of that amount. To date, this has been an adequate amount to cover all voucher requests in the County.

MHC may request an increase in the amount of funds allocated to the Voucher Program annually. In the event a timely request is not submitted to the County, the annual sum will remain at \$120,000.

MHC has submitted a 2021-22 budget request to the County to continue funding the Voucher Program at the \$120,000 level.

### **What is Midland Humane Coalition's role in this program?**

MHC's administrative role is to simplify the County's process by ensuring the validity of voucher logs and that all requirements are met before submitting a request for reimbursement.

Each month, MHC reviews the voucher logs submitted by participating veterinary clinics. Upon determining that the voucher logs and invoices are accurate, MHC submits the logs to the County Auditor requesting reimbursement.

In 2020, the County began issuing one reimbursement check to MHC to further simplify the process. MHC mails each participating veterinary clinic refunds in amounts they indicated. If there is a discrepancy in the voucher log, MHC contacts the participating veterinary clinic to remedy.



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### **Does MHC receive any funds from this program?**

MHC does not receive any funds or payments for overseeing this program. All administrative costs to manage this program are the responsibility and the expense of MHC.

### **Can any veterinarian participate in this program?**

Any licensed veterinarian can apply to participate. A Participating Veterinarian/Clinic is defined as those who have submitted in writing to qualify for the program, to document the necessary information as required by the County, and to submit voucher log request information to MHC and the County in a timely manner.

All services must be performed by a State of Texas licensed veterinarian.

### **Can non-profit organizations participate and be reimbursed by the County Voucher Program?**

Any organization that meets the qualification of a licensed veterinarian may apply to participate in the Voucher Program.

### **Are feral cats covered in this program?**

The primary goal of the Voucher Program is to assist pet owners in the cost of surgeries and to help control pet overpopulation. Currently, the County has reimbursed veterinarians for feral cats.

### **The County awarded a \$700,000 grant to MHC. How is it being used?**

In 2018, MHC submitted a grant application to Midland County and was awarded \$700,000 for use toward *Facilities and Programs*.

MHC has designated the funds to be applied to the Mabee Wellness and Treatment Center capital campaign. The Center will serve as a quarantine, prepping and foster facility to ensure rescued pets that are placed for adoption are healthy and fully vetted. This will allow MHC to fulfill its mission: *to partner with the community of Midland to end euthanasia of animals and to find Furr-Ever Homes for healthy, adoptable cats and dogs.*

The MHC Board determined that the original plan to build a 12,000 sq ft facility was no longer needed with the City's new Animal Shelter. They decided that it was in the community's best interest to construct a smaller facility with the ability to expand on an as needed basis.

Prior to 2020, the MHC Board had begun the process of reviewing the building plans. While the pandemic put development on hold, plans are now being finalized to present to the City for final approval prior to breaking ground.