

February 18, 2020

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CITY OF JOHN DAY

City of John Day  
450 E. Main St.  
John Day, OR 97845

To the City Council,

On behalf of **Hope 4 Paws - Grant County**, I would like to request that I be added to the Tuesday, February 25, 2020 city council agenda.

I would like to present to the council our 2019 summary of activities undertaken by our non-profit. I have attached materials for the council to preview before my presentation.

I look forward to meeting with the council. If you have any questions or need further materials, please contact me.

Thank you,



Chris Labhart, Vice-President

## **HOPE4PAWS:Grant County**

*OUR VISION: Animals living in happy homes, with owners who nurture and fulfill their needs.*

### **WHO WE ARE:**

Hope4Paws: Grant County is an all-volunteer nonprofit in a remote area that has no animal shelter or public services to address pet rescue and related issues. We began in 2015 as a subcommittee of a Baker County-based pet rescue. In 2016, we went independent to focus on the specific pet issues facing Grant County, where there are no private pet shelters or government-operated animal control officers or impound facilities. The number of pets, with breeding left unchecked, overwhelms our relatively small population.

Since its inception in 2016, Hope4Paws has focused on promoting spay/neuter of pets, controlling feral cat colonies and rescuing stray/abandoned pets.

After two years under fiscal sponsorship, Hope4Paws was approved by the IRS for 501 (c) (3) status in February 2018.

### **OUR MISSION: WHAT WE DO**

- We offer spay/neuter discount vouchers for Grant County pet owners who need a little help, to encourage them to take this important step. Available only at John Day River Veterinary Center.
- We rescue stray and abandoned dogs and cats – provide medical as needed, and reunite them with owners or network to find new owners.
- As resources allow, our dog committee helps to rehome dogs surrendered by homes that can no longer care for them.
- We transport many adoptable rescue pets to partners in larger communities with more people – thus, a bigger pool of adopters.
- We provide foster homes or paid boarding for pets in transition.
- As resources allow, our cat committee conducts Trap-Neuter-Return to help control feral colonies, and transports rescued kittens to adoption partners.
- We provide some food assistance to Community Cats caretakers.

### **WHAT WE DON'T DO**

- We don't have a shelter or impound lot for people to drop off unwanted animals.
- We don't network or adopt out animals that are not spayed or neutered.
- We don't pay people's vet bills but may be able to suggest ways to work with vet on costs.
- We don't act as a policing agency or seize pets, but refer situations to LE when circumstances warrant.
- We don't remove or kill feral cats for people. TNR cats must be returned to their colonies as they are not adoptable.

**ALL OF OUR Programs depend on available funding and volunteers.**

### **OUR PARTNERS**

We work with Dispatch, John Day River Veterinary Center, law enforcement, Pioneer Feed, John Day Parks and Rec, and a network of pet rescue organizations across Oregon. Recently we began talks with Grant County Road Department on a sign project.

**Hope 4 Paws Grant County  
Spay/Neuter Programs – 2019 Report**

In 2019, Hope 4 Paws spent nearly \$14,000 to help people spay and neuter 230 pet cats and dogs as well as 46 foster/adoptive animals and 119 feral cats. Total animals: 395.

Much of that work was done through our ongoing year-round voucher program and a new series of free spay and neuter clinics. These are available to Grant County pet owners through the local clinic, John Day River Veterinary Center. The feral cats come from our Trap-Neuter-Return projects.

Where did the money come from?

Two major grants:

Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund (\$3,000 for vouchers)

Gorge Community Foundation/Drs. Hosiosky Fund (\$5,500 for free clinics)

Plus generous donations from our supporters and fundraisers in the local community.

Breakdown of spending for Spay/Neuter programs:

<b>S/N Vouchers</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Dog – 44 vouchers - \$1,760	
Cat – 84 vouchers - \$1,680	
Total Voucher Exp:	\$3,440
<b>Free Clinics</b>	
Dog - 49 - \$3,900	
Cat – 53 - \$1,945	
Total Free clinic Exp.	\$5,840
<b>Foster Spay/Neuter</b>	
Dog– 5 – \$485	
Cat – 41– \$1,025	
Total Foster S/N Exp.	\$1,510
<b>S/N for Trap/Neuter</b>	
Cats – 119 - \$2,996	\$2,996
<b>Total 2019 S/N spending</b>	<b>\$13,791</b>



Valerie Maynard, Director

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February 11, 2020

County Court,

I am writing this letter in order to provide some information on how much our communities rely on Hope 4 Paws for, basic animal control.

Our Center is the Primary Safety Answering Point for all of Grant County, so we receive both, emergency and non-emergency calls within Grant County. Because of this we have firsthand knowledge of how bad the situation became with dogs at large and feral cats in Grant County prior to Hope 4 Paws forming their organization. Many other communities around the state have animal control units that are either funded by the counties or the municipalities, we in Grant County do not have anything in place to handle the many animal complaints that we receive.

Past procedure for handling these type of calls was unless Law Enforcement to help them I cannot tell you how many times over the years that we have had people come to our Dispatch door or call us because they caught a dog or cat running loose and want to leave it with animal control for its safety as well as the public, only to be told "sorry, we do not have animal control in our county". Their response was usually, "then what do we do with it", which we would then have to tell them to let it go, unless they had the means to take care of it and try to find the owner.

Countless times over the years people have contacted dispatch, in person or by phone, to report they found a dog or cat running loose. The public would express their concern for the animal and public's safety, only to be told there was no animal control in Grant County, they immediately wanted to know what to do with the animal. Unfortunately, the only solution to this problem was for the reporting party to care for the animal and attempt to locate the owner on their own or set it free.

Currently our procedure in Dispatch is to call Hope 4 Paws if an owner of a pet cannot be found and there is nothing that Law Enforcement can do. They have become an invaluable resource to us and our county. It is clear to see how much these volunteers care about their community and even more importantly, they care about the animals. I would encourage Grant County to look at providing support to Hope 4 Paws if at all possible.

Valerie Maynard

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie Maynard".

## How can Grant County help?

A grant of \$5,000 to Hope 4 Paws could help continue our existing programs and expand our outreach to help the community. This level of funding could address these needs for 2020:

1. Cat TNR & Spay/Neuter (Continuing programs) - \$2,500.00  
Background: Feral cat colonies, left untreated, can grow to pose health, sanitation and livability issues for communities and rural residents. Trap Neuter Return is a humane way to control cat colonies.
2. Microchip/ID Tag Clinics - \$1,250.00 (est. 100 chips)  
Stray pets with no ID tags or chips take significant time and effort from rescue volunteers as well as dispatch and law enforcement agencies, which must deal with resulting traffic hazards and loose animal complaints.
3. Signs – Pet abandonment warning sign program – \$250.00 (est. 8-10 signs)  
Animal dumping, particularly of cats, is an ongoing problem on some county roads, placing a growing burden on residents and starting new colonies. Dumping animals is not just cruel, but illegal under Oregon law.
4. Dog Spay/Neuter programs – \$1,000 – Cost assistance for owned pets and surrender dogs.

The first three programs are not funded by other grants at this time. The cat TNR program is an ongoing budget line, while the microchip clinics and signage are new projects proposed to start in 2020. Item 4: Although we had two grants for S/N in 2019, they covered only about 60% of the cost; the balance had to be covered by donations.