This report represents SAVE A PET OF NIAGARA COUNTY INC's responses to Charting Impact, a joint project of BBB Wise Giving Alliance, GuideStar USA Inc, and Independent Sector. Charting Impact uses five simple yet powerful questions to encourage strategic thinking and help organizations share concise information about their plans and progress toward impact.

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**Mission:**
Save-A-Pet is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit animal rescue organization founded in 1977 and based in Niagara County, NY. SAP is staffed by volunteers and is dedicated to saving the lives of homeless, abused, and neglected dogs and cats. Our foster homes provide a safe haven for all the animals that are taken in. All animals are checked by a veterinarian, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and receive any needed medical treatment in order to maximize the success of their placement in carefully-screened homes. We are funded by charitable donations which go to the care and medical needs of the animals we rescue. In addition to rescue, SAP believes in educating the public on the benefits of spay/neuter and offers assistance by facilitating numerous low-cost spay/neuter clinics throughout the year. SAP believes that all animals should be treated with respect and deserve a chance to live in a safe, loving home.

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GuideStar, nor does it represent fulfillment of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's *Standards for Charity Accountability*. For more information on Charting Impact, visit [www.guidestar.org/chartingimpact](http://www.guidestar.org/chartingimpact)
1. What are we aiming to accomplish?

Save-A-Pet's goal is to continue our long-standing commitment to finding good adoptive homes for unwanted cats and dogs, but we are also committed to expanding the availability of low-cost spay/neuter clinics for area cats and dogs. We are urging every local No-Kill organization and shelter to balance their adoption programs with affordable spay/neuter clinics, since none of the local animal rescue groups can keep up with the current oversupply of cats. To that end, we will invest more of Save-A-Pet's funds and seek more bequests and grants to invest in spay/neuter programs for privately-owned animals. We have found that there is a great demand for low-cost spay/neuter services. People want to have their pets "fixed," but many simply can't afford the standard prices of these procedures, especially if multiple pets need such services. After years of dealing with "accidental" litters, our volunteers now believe the smartest course is to neutralize the source of the accidental matings before they happen.

2. What are our strategies for making this happen?

Our strategies for reducing the number of surplus pets is to facilitate affordable spay/neuter clinics for privately-owned animals of low-income owners. To do this, we will use Save-A-Pet funds gathered through grants, bequests, and fundraising. We will establish working relationships with local veterinarians and groups such as the Niagara SPCA to provide the low-cost veterinary services. We strive to make the clinics include basic vaccinations (if needed), pain meds, and flea/tick meds, if needed, because we know most animals will not have return or routine visits to a veterinary clinic. Our goal is to give the most and best care in an affordable one-stop clinic.

3. What are our organization's capabilities for doing this?

Currently Save-A-Pet is in a strong position to make spay/neuter initiatives. 2013 was a good year for us financially due to the receipt of a significant bequest and some successful fundraising efforts. We plan to invest a good portion of that money into spay/neuter clinics. In addition, we successfully completed a $20,000 grant from the ASPCA devoted to spay/neuter clinics, and we are applying for an additional grant in 2014. We have volunteers who are committed to carrying out this work, and we have the cooperation of local veterinarians.

4. How will we know if we're making progress?

When our organization started in 1977, we always had one or two litters of puppies in foster care. Now we have very few surrenders of litters or pregnant dogs. That is an indication that spay/neuter efforts, as well as licensing, leash-laws and education, have been effective for dogs. Our spay/neuter efforts in dogs are now largely concentrated on large breeds, particularly pitbulls. The only way that we'll see similar success with the feline population is by funding and facilitating spay/neuter clinics that meet the great demand for such services. We'll know we're making progress when our phones are no longer ringing constantly for help.

5. What have and haven't we accomplished so far?

As indicated in prior commentary, over the years Save-A-Pet has placed hundreds of dogs and cats in good homes, and in recent years our facilitating of low-cost spay/neuter clinics have handled hundreds of animals (712 cats and 42 dogs in 2013 alone) and thus prevented unwanted thousands more being born. In spite of that accomplishment, all the local animal rescue groups and SPCAs are "full" of cats and turning animals away. We need to balance the demand for pets with the supply of...
pets, and at the present time, the oversupply of unwanted pets, especially cats, is a problem that needs to be tackled with continuing, affordable spay/neuter efforts.