

Milam Touch of Love Annual Report, 2024

Board President

During our fifth year, we adjusted our focus to ensuring low-cost spay and neuter as well as trap neuter return (TNR) capabilities remain accessible in Milam County. We continue to partner with the cities of Milano and Thorndale to ensure their citizens all have access to spay/neuter and TNR. We had a brief, successful partnership with Rockdale. Our supporters have ensured we can do much more good in the Milam County community. We will be seeking a grant for TNR when the window opens on July 1. If granted, we will be able to financially afford to expand our TNR program

Board of Directors

We have four members on our Board of Directors:

Board President: Jean Schara

Board Secretary/Treasurer: Meghan Cummins

Board Member: Bonnie Wiesman

Board Member: Kristen Johnson

Vision and Mission Statement

Vision: Milam County domestic animals are cared for and provided for by responsible owners.

Mission: Milam Touch of Love is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer organization working independently to help in efforts to care for domestic animals, educate their owners and the community, and help them achieve responsible ownership goals.

We formed as a legal entity in the State of Texas on May 3, 2019.

Top Supporters

We received a \$5,000 matching funds grant from an anonymous donor to benefit the Cameron Pound. This grant and your donations ensure all animals at the City of Cameron Pound receive treatment for parasites, spaying and neutering, vaccinations, and heartworm preventative or heartworm treatment.

Facebook has been a solid source of fundraising for us, bringing in \$7,507.37. Individual donors contributed over \$23,000 in smaller donations.

Your Milam County Commissioners believed our mission was important enough to support us with a donation of \$20,000 for this budget year.

From this, you can see that the majority of our donors are smaller donors, who enable us to do big things for Milam County.

How to Donate

We have received large and small donations via our postal box, from checks and cash left for us with Cameron's Animal Control Officer (ACO), and at the various events where we've set up our outreach booth.

Financial Information

Through membership fees, donations, fundraising efforts, and program fees, we brought in \$98,783.95 from May 2023 through April 30, 2024.

As of April 30, 2024, we have \$15,799.42 cash on hand.

Where did we spend your donations?

- \$32,461.17 was spent for our Snip and Chip monthly low-cost spay and neuter program
 - \$41,955.83 was spent on our Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) program
 - \$1,845.66 went to our May Day Spay program
 - \$1,717.67 purchased vaccines, flea treatment, and deworming medication for the shelters and to prepare animals for transport (doing our own distemper and bordetella vaccines costs us approximately 2/3 less than having a vet administer these vaccines)
 - \$962.41 went to purchasing microchips for snip and chip and our outreach efforts to microchip dogs and cats in Milam County
 - \$227.44 supported the Cameron and Rockdale Shelters for supplies
 - \$42.64 was spent on veterinary care for foster animals
 - \$2,623.28 was needed for shelter veterinary care (not related to vaccinations, flea treatment, or wormer)
 - Kitten and Dog Foster programs accounted for \$2,314.07
 - We donated \$2,050 to Dime Box Veterinary Clinic to cover spaying and neutering costs for a large number of cats Charlyne's Pound Puppies took responsibility for
 - We expanded our TNR program by purchasing new equipment for \$1,880.73
- We had \$2,736.56 in operating costs, including PayPal, bank fees, postage, insurance, and shipping charges for our vaccines.
- Finally, \$8,393.59 was spent on various smaller expenditures.

This totals \$99,168.43 in expenses for our fifth fiscal year.

Programs Implemented

- The City of Milano continued supporting their citizens by paying all costs for spaying and neutering as well as wellness costs for city resident pets
- The City of Thorndale continued supporting their citizens by budgeting to pay for spaying and neutering for their city residents' pets

Highlights of Accomplishments

- 41 dogs and cats were sent on freedom rides to rescues in and out of Texas
- 250 dogs were spayed or neutered and 228 were vaccinated against rabies (those not vaccinated under our program were able to prove they were current on vaccinations)
- Of 246 dogs tested for heartworms, 228 were negative. Most of the positive dogs were shelter dogs, who tended to come from environments where they did not get preventative care
- 178 owned cats were spayed or neutered and 167 were vaccinated against rabies (those not vaccinated under our program were able to prove they were current on vaccinations)
- 774 barn cats or porch cats have been spayed or neutered with an undocumented rabies shot (protecting the cat and improving public health)
- Our Facebook group membership grew from 5591 to 6400 members
- We have microchipped 1,637 pets since we began performing this service in December 2019

Success Stories

We continued our relationship with Dr. Brinlee in 2023-24. We have sites in Cameron, Milano, Minerva, and Thorndale where we can host events. We have a monthly wellness day, barn cat day, snip and chip day, and TNR.

Our schedule is standardized to TNR 20 cats on the first Wednesday morning of each month. Wellness Day is the afternoon of the first Wednesday of each month. We offer Barn Cat Day on the second Wednesday of each month where people bring the barn cats and porch cats to be fixed and get an undocumented rabies vaccine. On the fourth Wednesday of each month (it shifts around the end of year holidays), we hold Snip and Chip for pet dogs and cats.

The support provided by the County Commissioners and the cities of Milano and Thorndale are significant for our citizens.

Beneficiary Data

We are aware of a large population in Milam County who loves their pets but does not have the means to do all the things considered essential for "responsible pet owners." Our goal is to help

these people achieve this through low-cost or no-cost spay/neuter events. Our May Day Spay program covers the cost of spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, heartworm test, microchip, and CBC bloodwork for these people. To help our donations spread further, we like to get at least some portion of our cost donated by people, but when that is not possible, the May Day Spay Program is available.

Vision for the Year Ahead

We have purposefully shifted our focus to full-time low-cost spay and neuter efforts. Without people willing or able to volunteer as fosters, we cannot rescue homeless animals in Milam County. Our board believes we can make the greatest difference in the low-cost spay and neuter arena.

We plan to continue microchipping as many dogs and cats as possible without worrying if people can pay. We don't ask for money at our microchipping events, but the donation jar is there. If people ask us, we tell them we suggest a donation of \$10. If they don't ask, we don't ask.

Despite only having one humane cat trapper, we expanded our TNR capability this year. We have two people dedicated to working with cats (and a few dogs) in Rockdale. Our TNR Coordinator will be moving out of state next month, so we are actively seeking someone to fill that position.

We are still seeking community cat managers. As we learn the terrain — many cat communities are already out there — we coordinate with the colony manager to get their colony spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and ear-tipped.

Finally, we continue to meet people who don't realize our primary mission is to make low-cost spay and neutering services available to Milam County residents. We are looking for volunteers to help with expanding our outreach to enhance our recognition in the community. Many people are aware of MTOL, but they aren't necessarily aware of what our primary focus is.