Resources

*For Prince George’s County Pet Owners*

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## Low Cost or Free Food Resources:

**LovePaws Rescue: Pet Food Pantries:**

* 1st Sunday of every month

10:00-11:30am

Central Bark Landover

8513 Ardwick Ardmore Rd.

* 2nd Saturday of each month

St. Mary’s of the Assumption School

7:30-9:00am

4610 Largo Rd. Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

**College Park Animal Control:**  May have food available for resident pet owners. Call (240) 487-3575 to confirm. 

**Bowie CLAW:** (for residents of Bowie only, must apply for assistance) is working in partnership with the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry on its Pet Assistance and Support (PAS) Program to help the citizens of Bowie who are struggling to feed their pets. They also assist the elderly and disabled. For assistance, email them at bowieclaw@gmail.com or visit their website.

**Help for Pets in Charles County, MD:** Offers assistance to southern PG County residents (Brandywine, Aquasco, Accokeek areas). Weekly outreach events for pet parents in need of assistance feeding their pet. Usual locations include St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Baden and Faith United Methodist Church in Accokeek. Email them at helpforpetssmd@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page “Help for Pets in Charles County, MD”

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## Low Cost or Free Vetting and Spay/Neuter Services:

**PGSPCA**

* **Vaccinations:** Our shot clinics are held on the first Sunday of the month, from 11-1 during summer months (July-September), and 1-3pm the rest of the year. No appointment is required.
* **Free Spay & Neuter:**  An appointment is required. We alter the pets of **qualified** county residents for FREE. You may qualify if you are receiving public assistance, subsisting on low income, or reside in one of the county’s designated [ERC neighborhoods](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ae47ece53fa4a519919d2b91873392b) (formerly called TNI neighborhoods). If you think you qualify, complete the [online form](https://www.pgspca.org/appointment/).
* **Location:** 8210 D’Arcy Rd., Forestville, MD 20747
* **Phone:** 301-262-5625

 **Spay Now Laurel**

* In addition to low-cost spay and neuter surgeries, Spay Now performs a wide range of soft tissue surgical procedures, including perineal urethrostomy, bladder stone surgery, foreign body surgery, entropion surgery, enucleation, mass removal, and many more. We also provide dental services.
* **Location:** 7401 Van Dusen Rd., Laurel, MD 20702
* **Phone:** 301-483-7080

**“Spay-a-Day” Grant (Prince George’s County Animal Shelter)**

* Prince George’s County Animal Shelter receives a grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture to fund free spay/neuters for county residents that qualify. Complete the application and return to the shelter. Until BSL (breed specific legislation) is repealed, **do not utilize this resource if you have a pit bull type dog.** All surgeries will occur at the Spay Spot which is at the county animal shelter (3750 Brown Station Rd. Upper Marlboro, MD 20772) 
* Location: 3750 Brown Station Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
* Applications in both English and Spanish

**Petco Vaccination Clinics**

Various locations throughout the county. Appointments required. Scan the QR code to search for a location near you. Check their website for prices and to schedule an appointment.

Locations that Participate:

* Petco Forestville (3034 Donnell Dr. Forestville, MD 20747)
* Petco Clinton (8909 Branch Ave. Clinton, MD 20735)
* Petco Upper Marlboro (7609 Crain Hwy. Upper Marlboro, MD 20772)

***What is spaying & neutering (also known as “altering”) and what does it mean for my pet?***

* Spaying and neutering a pet effectively eliminates their ability to reproduce, without any negative impact on their health, behavior and appearance.
* Spaying/Neutering a pet minimizes the risk of developing multiple different cancers (ovarian, mammary, testicular). Altered animals (pets that have been spayed or neutered), live longer and healthier lives than those who have not been spayed or neutered.
* Spaying/Neutering can reduce marking behaviors (urinating to leave a scent in multiple places) in male dogs, can reduce the urge to roam and reduces or eliminates mounting behaviors (humping). Female pets will no longer have a cycle of bloody discharge after spaying.
* Spaying/neutering is required in order for your pet to visit many dog-friendly businesses (dog parks, dog daycare, etc.) and can provide your pet with greater access to socialization with other dogs in a safe way.
* Spaying/neutering can be done when your pet is at least two months of age and weighs at least two pounds. If pets are spayed when they are young (prior to one year of age), their recovery time is shorter and easier.

Training and Behavioral Assistance:

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# If you are experiencing behavioral issues and/or conflict between your dog and other pets or conflict between your dog and family members:

* Your Dog’s Friend
	+ <https://www.youtube.com/user/YourDogsFriend/featured>
* Every Dog Behavior and Training: (En Espanol)
	+ <https://youtu.be/NdOZBZ4TpFk>
	+ <https://youtu.be/oxPyF7E3bBw>

* Beth Mullen: Owner/Founder at Dog Latin Dog Training and Behavior Consulting
	+ Email: doglatinbeth@gmail.com
	+ Website: Doglatindogtraining.com, <http://decompressforsuccess.com/>
* Leticia Dog Training: Happy Dogs on the Hill (Se Habla Espanol)
	+ Email: leticia.dogtraining@gmail.com
	+ Instagram: @leticia.dogtraining

* Teresa Villatoro: JW Dog Training (Se Habla Espanol)
	+ Email: info@jwdogtraining.com
* Olivia Glick: HRA (Se Habla Espanol)
	+ Email: training@humanerescuealliance.org
	+ Instagram: @oli.glick

Additional Resources:

| **Black Pet Instagram’s by @gingers\_naps** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pet People of Color Directory by @gingers\_naps** |  |
| **Tembo and Laika’s Black-Owned Pet Businesses** |  |
| **Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Support for Dog Owners***Safe Haven Program through Humane Rescue Alliance (HRA)**For DC Residents* |  |

# Keep your pets safe!

1. Leash your dog at all times when your dog is outdoors and not in a securely-fenced, fully-enclosed area.
	* Leashes that we love:
		+ 2 Hounds Design Freedom No Pull Harness and Leash (great for keeping your dog close to you and providing maximal control for high energy/reactive/young pups, especially in busy or crowded areas
		+ 15-30’ long lead (excellent for exploring less-trafficked areas, hiking on sparsely-populated trails and for taking your dog on mentally-fatiguing “sniffy walks” for the feeling of being off-leash with the safety of being on leash). This is not the same as a retractable lead, see below.
		+ Hands free dog leash (helpful for walking your dog while keeping your pet safely attached to you even if you have to hold multiple items in your hands. Helps during leash training so that you can have hands free to give treats.)
	* Leashes that don’t work/are unsafe:
		+ Retractable leash (if your pet pulls and the handle slips out of your hand and then the retractable feature scares your dog because it feels like they’re being chased by the leash handle so they’re more likely to run away from you)
		+ Leashes that are too short for your pet to walk comfortably through its environment (Your leash should be long enough that your pet can walk a few feet from you and have the freedom to sniff the ground as you walk. If your pet cannot lower its head to sniff the ground or if there is constant tension on the leash while your pet is walking beside you, get a longer leash. 6’ is average but larger dogs often need a longer leash.)
		+ Leash attached directly to the collar at only one attachment point (If your pet “backs out” of the collar, pulls and slips through, then you’re left holding the leash and collar in your hand and your pet is loose with no ID on them. Attach leash to harness or ideally, to both harness and collar for additional security.
2. Double check your backyard to make sure that your pet cannot escape by scaling the fence, slipping through gaps in the fence or digging underneath.
3. Do not leave pets unsupervised outdoors, even in securely fenced backyards and/or on a “tie-out”.
4. Use baby gates/leash pets or keep pets securely in another room when guests come over to keep your pet from rushing to greet your guests and slipping out the door when it is opened.
5. If your pet is fearful of fireworks and/or thunderstorms, bring them to an interior room (basement, bathroom, closet) with few windows and give them a comfy place to settle in prior to storms starting or scary neighborhood noises beginning. Stay with them to comfort them until the storm passes or until the fireworks stop.

Products that we love for comforting fearful pets:

* White noise machine/white noise apps on your phone to cover up the severity of the noise and help relax your pet
* Thunder vest or snug clothing, tightly-wrapped blanket or “swaddle” for pets that feel comforted by clothing
* Enrichment items like lickie mats, stuffed Kongs, beef marrow bones, food puzzle toys, snuffle mats, etc. can provide mental stimulation for your dog (distract from the scary noise), while also tiring them out mentally even if they can’t go outside for exercise.
1. Make sure that your pet is:
* Microchipped and that the microchip is registered to your current home address and with your current phone number.
	+ Your vet can microchip your pet, as can any of the low-cost clinics listed above. You register your chip using the directions provided with the chip itself.
	+ Your microchip is not a GPS tracker, but it identifies your pet even if its collar and ID tag slips off to animal control/law enforcement/vets that have a microchip reader.
* Wearing a collar with legible ID tag with your current contact phone number and your pet’s name