

Dear Animal Advocates,

I am reaching out to request funding for our “Expanding Veterinary Staffing Capacity” program. Texas Litter Control provides low and no cost veterinary care and spay/neuter services to the community. We have been struggling to fully staff our clinics for several years, but the situation has become dire. We just cannot find American veterinarians who are willing to work full time. TLC has found a new approach to the problem using the United States Mexico and Canada Agreement “USMCA.” We have begun to recruit veterinarians from Mexico. Our ultimate goal is to get enough veterinarians into the Houston area not only to staff the Texas Litter Control clinics but to act as a relief service for the other non-profit groups in the area who are also struggling to find veterinarians.

The process is expensive, and we are seeking funding to help us relocate these veterinarians to achieve this mission. The best analogy I can provide is that it is like having a newborn baby who needs an apartment and a car. These veterinarians show up with a suitcase full of clothes. We help them get a Social Security Number, living arrangements and transportation. They come over as Vet Techs while they wait for the testing window for the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination “NAVLE”, so we help them study for the test and become licensed in the State of Texas. We are finding on average; it costs approximately \$30,000 per veterinarian to get them here and set up.

Texas Litter Control is a Texas Non-Profit Corp and 501c3 public charity. We opened our first clinic in February of 2013. We are in smaller towns north of Houston (Humble, Spring, and Tomball). TLC services both rural and metropolitan communities. We perform approximately 25,000 sterilization surgeries (30% dogs, 35% owned cats and 35% feral cats) and 10,000 wellness/preventative care appointments per year. We could do so much more if we could ever get fully staffed. Texas Litter Control also mentors other groups in opening clinics, and we train surgeons in high volume spay/neuter techniques.

The Houston area needs a serious injection of labor into the veterinary market. No one seems to be able to come up with a reasonable solution, so we found one. I hope you see the value this program will provide to the entire animal welfare community. We you will consider sponsoring one veterinarian but any help with this project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to review my request.

Sincerely,

Deana Love

Executive Director and Founder

Texas Litter Control