2017 Cecil Co. Maryland Community Cat TNR Spay & Neuter Programn

Project #
FY18-315

County: Cecil County Maryland

Number of Cats Spayed:	382	Number of Dogs Spayed:	0
Number of Cats Neutered:	263	Number of Dogs Neutered:	0
Amount Received: $43,364.97		Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA):	0

Project Synopsis:
To provide TNR services to feral cat colonies in targeted zip codes within Cecil County Maryland.

Project Description:
CFA's MDA Grant Award targeted feral colonies in Elkton, North East and Port Deposit Maryland.This program is necessary because the county is in a crisis mode resulting from the over population of free roaming unaltered felines. It is estimated that approximately 33,770 cats live in Cecil County and 9,019 are intact felines living in colonies. Our goal was to alter 100% of the colonies listed in our grant request. CFA targeted approximately 32 feral colonies in the targeted areas. Cecil County Animal Services (CCAS) confirmed that these targeted areas are and continue to be a significant source of their intake.

CFA's focus in this TNR project reduced additional intake into the county shelter by preventing additional litters from being born through our TNR efforts.

CFA also recognized that 20% of unaltered owned felines reside in the targeted zip codes. CFA offered services to this population to protect the gains made through colony TNR.

Local Veterinarians provided in-kind contributions in the form of substantially discounted TNR surgical services and we were also able to begin surgeries at the CFA Miss Cat Spay and Neuter Surgical Suite towards the end of our grant cycle.

CFA and CCSA setup workshops to engage with the community and provide educational classes for the public on the benefits of TNR and community cat welfare.

We anticipate that this projected helped reduce the CCAS shelter intake by at least 25%. This project also help reduce the risk of spreading rabies, reduce the cat population through attrition in the targeted areas and begin to relieve the burden to local caretakers.

Summary of Approach:
After being granted permission by the landowners and colony caretakers, CFA/Colony caretakers systematically set up traps prior to the day of surgery. CFA evaluated each cat and explore their potential for re-homing. All kittens were removed, placed in foster care, vetted and offered for adoption through CFA. Cats

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM

that were not suitable for re-homing or adoption were returned to the location of origin after being altered, vaccinated, ear docked and microchipped. CFA volunteers have been completely trained and partcipated in the TNR process. In adddition, as community residents became engaged, they were also trained by CFA volunteers on best TNR practices.

Accomplishments:
CFA was able to compete 382 Spays and 263 Neuters. In addition, 417 felines received rabies and 212 received ear docks. 150 felines were rehomed through the CFA adoption program. The original goal proposed was 500 cats.

The Miss Cat Spay and Neuter Surgical Suite is open and in operation. CFA received veterinary approval on 6/18/2018. This site will improve efficienies and triple the number of surgeries we will complete yearly. We are fortunate to have 3 high volume veterinarians and 2 vet techs staffing the surgical suite. Our vet of record has improved our policies and flow and we are grateful for all the community support, especially MDA supporting this Life Saving Mission and opportunity. The ribbon cutting is August 9, 2018.

Lessons Learned:
Cold weater hampers efforts .
Team Captains are vital to success at each colony.
Humane Alliance training has tripled surgery output.
Adequate number of traps is essential when trying to trap 100% of a colony.
Having an overnight holding area for females helps with recovery.

Attachments:
Sent via email

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