



Feral Cat Project

Project #

21-639

County: Harford

Number of Cats Spayed: 190

Number of Dogs Spayed: 0

Number of Cats Neutered: 170

Number of Dogs Neutered: 0

Amount Received: \$9,000.00

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00

Project Synopsis:

This project was for targeted TNR along the Route 40 corridor from Joppa to Havre de Grace and in rural North Harford County.



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Project Description:

The goal of this project was to spay/neuter a total of 360 stray/roaming cats within a 12-month period using two surgery providers. The targeted area has the densest population of roaming cats, as proved out by our experience in the county since 2016; most calls for assistance in trapping ferals come from those sections of the county. We assigned multiple trappers to the two regions for the duration of the project. Due to Covid closures and later backlog, we were limited to using one instead of the planned two providers for almost the entire period of performance, but with a one-quarter extension, SCTNR was able to alter 360 cats within the assigned budget of \$9,000.

Summary of Approach:

We responded to requests for assistance from the targeted areas and concentrated efforts in neighborhoods with identified large colonies, with a goal of 100% spay/neuter of intact animals. Our trappers relied on caretakers to report sightings, assist in setting traps, and notifying us of any influx of unaltered cats after the initially identified strays were fixed. We also queried pet owners who came to us for help through a separate funding stream, many of whom had adopted their pets from outdoors, in order to identify new and contiguous colonies in the target areas. The SCTNR outreach and medical teams, along with trappers, followed up with colony caregivers to remind them to report new stray sightings timely.

Accomplishments:

Within budget and with the allowed schedule extension, we accomplished the number of spay/neuter surgeries planned, despite losing one low-cost provider at the beginning of the summer. Responding to the unexpected reduction in clinic availability meant changing our trapping schedule to coincide with the only dates the single provider could offer, which also stretched our all-volunteer trapping team, most of whom work full-time and were further burdened by Covid restrictions that made some of them at-home employees for most of the period. But we effectively managed this change with the extension granted while continuing our other ongoing clinics.



Lessons Learned:

We will seek multiple providers for future efforts to ensure that if we lose one we do not have to rapidly adjust plans and schedules to meet our targeted outcomes. Our intake personnel will work as a team to schedule qualified animals (under future grants, if awarded) first for the designated clinics. Since we are finding more clients coming to use through word-of-mouth or internet search, we have also determined a need to boost our advertising even further to reach those community members who are not on social media. To that end, we are recruiting another marketing person to focus on non-digital communications such as print media, radio, and television.

For More Information Contact:

Jean Salvatore

Organization Name and Address:

PO Box 258

Abingdon, Maryland 21009

Phone: 443-617-1875

Email: jean@shadowcatstnr.org



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