

# Final Grant Progress Report

Submitted by Keith Burnham on Oct 6th, 2022 at 9:29 pm

Status: *Completed*

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## Final Grant Progress Report

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Spay and Neuter Grants Program

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### Contact Information

**Project Title**

Hope for Sunshine's Feral Friends

**Project Type**

Feral Cat Application

**Project #**

22-7050

**Date of Report**

Oct 6, 2022

**Project Contact Name**

Keith Burnham

**Project Contact Telephone Number**

410-796-7327

**Project Contact Email**

info@sunshinesfriends.org

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### Organization Name and Address

**Organization Name**

Sunshine's Friends Cats and Dogs Rescue

**County**

Anne Arundel

**Address Line 1**

7406 Belclare Ct.

**Address Line 2**

City	State	Zipcode
Jessup	Maryland	20794

**Full Address**

7406 Belclare Ct. Jessup Maryland 20794

**Budget Expenditures**

**Total Grant Awarded**

\$11,235.40

**Total Amount Spent**

\$11,235.40

**Amount Remaining**

\$0.00

**Surgery Information**

Number of Cats Spayed	Number of Cats Neutered
118	108

Number of Dogs Spayed	Number of Dogs Neutered
0	0

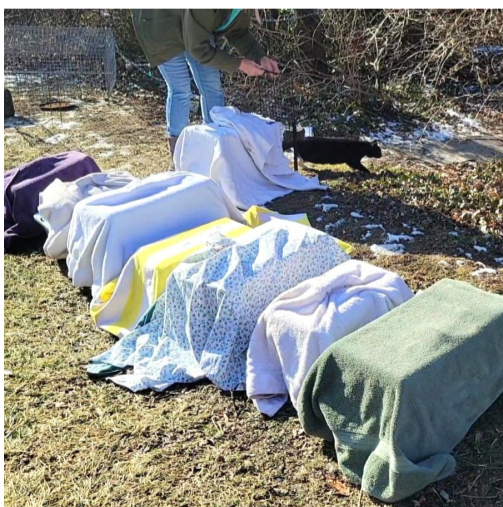
Total Surgeries Proposed	Total Surgeries Completed
226	226

**Project Information**

**Project Synopsis**

This project funded part of our multi-year efforts to control the feral cat population living in colonies in parts of Anne Arundel and Howard counties. We proposed to perform targeted Trap Neuter Return (TNR), spaying/neutering/vaccinating 226 feral cats at 6 colonies (3 in Anne Arundel and 3 in Howard) in order to reduce the intake and euthanasia rates at both of those county animal control facilities.

**Upload Images**





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## Additional Information

### Project Description

Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue ([www.sunshinesfriends.org](http://www.sunshinesfriends.org)) has been a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity since 2014 operating within 20 miles of our main location in Jessup, MD. The target area is a mix of light industry, warehouses, and residential neighborhoods, and the zones along the US Route 1 corridor and southern Baltimore beltway have a higher concentration of unaltered strays and feral cat colonies than other parts of the counties. This project, which ran from October 2021 to July 2022, sought to spay/neuter 226 community cats living in 6 known colonies, and then transition them to managed colonies. As part of a multi-year project, we are steadily reducing the number of feral cats taken in at local county animal shelters. The project funded the cost of the spay/neuter surgeries and rabies vaccines for the cats and a transportation component to bring the animals from the targeted colonies to our partner vets' clinics.

### Summary of Approach

Long before the grant award, we began outreach to colony caregivers and property managers to determine the scope of the problem and prioritize. We take on one colony at a time until it is 100% complete, then move to the next. Before working at a site, our coordinator lines up resources and schedules vet clinics. We establish a rhythm of TNR two times per week to optimize people/equipment resources and keep regular schedules. When trapping, any ear-tipped cats that were already spayed/neutered are released if in good health; all others we take to our vet the next morning. Following surgery, we recuperate and evaluate them for potential rehoming through adoption. Truly feral cats are returned to the site to reintegrate with the colony. We trap at each site until complete, then follow up with outreach to catch stragglers/newcomers. We partner with 6 vet clinics to who provide substantially discounted rates. We cover the costs of extra vaccines, medical care, and flea treatment.

### Accomplishments

In just 10 months of the planned one-year project, we managed to spay/neuter 226 feral cats living in 6 colonies in 2 local counties. This number is in addition to the regular projects we run via our standing in-house programs. We brought all 6 colonies under control, preventing future kitten population explosions and reducing intake/euthanasia at both county-run shelters. We also provided additional treatment and/or surgery to any cat that needed it and cared for them until fully recovered. We trained the caregivers at each colony in best practices for community cat colony management. Every one expressed how grateful they were that this program exists and that all the cats in their colonies are now spayed/neutered and vaccinated. Once the grant funds were expended, we provided our own funding to cover the last few cats in order to complete 100% of the colonies.

## Lessons Learned

In the early part of the project, there were still limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so we held virtual meetings with colony caregivers. Our veterinarian partners reduced their available appointments, so we had to put extra effort into coordinating and scheduling spay/neuter visits. By using multiple vet practices who strongly believe in TNR and maintaining our close relationships with them, we avoided the typical 3 to 4 month wait for appointments, instead arranging for mass appointments for about 15 cats at once, even if they had to work longer hours.

## Attachments (proof of surgeries performed)



[SFCDR\\_22-7049-Final\\_Feral-list.pdf \(0.34 MB\)](#)

**If in any category you were unable to put the full response, please upload them as a document here.**

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Notes back to submitter

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