

Cheap Fix Cat Clinic

County: Prince George's County

Number of Cats Spayed: 132 Number of Dogs Spayed:

Number of Cats Neutered: 108 Number of Dogs Neutered:

Amount Received: \$15,600 Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0

Project Synopsis:

This project TNR'd community cats within four target zip codes in Prince George's County: 20706, 20783, 20784, and 20785.







Project Description:

The target areas for the Cheap Fix Clinic contained low-income communities throughout an area spanning four zip codes in Prince George's County. We TNR'd 240 community cats within these zip codes. ACR and Outlaw Kitties trapped the cats and transported them to the low-cost spay clinics, as clinic availability permitted. The immediate purpose of the project was to reduce euthanasia rates at the Prince George's County Animal Shelter. The long-term goal of this program was to decrease the community cat population in Prince George's County and nearby areas by preventing countless litters of kittens from being born outdoors.

Summary of Approach:

Alley Cat Rescue volunteers used a combined complaint-based and targeted approach; we fielded calls from community members and based our target colony locations partly upon the zip codes from which we received the greatest number of requests for help. We also took into consideration the poverty levels of the communities requesting help. During the project, 1) trappers targeted colonies individually, working toward 100% sterilization of all colony members before moving on to another colony. 2) Trappers transported the cats, in traps, to ACR headquarters and ACR staff then transported the cats to a clinic. 3) At the clinic, cats were sterilized, eartipped, and vaccinated for rabies. They were then transported back to ACR and held overnight. 4) Our staff transported the cats back to their colonies the following day. 4) We check in with colony caretakers regularly to ensure any new cats who enter the colony are TNR'd.

Accomplishments:

During this grant period, we TNR'd our goal number of 240 community cats. We achieved 100% sterilization for five of our 20 targeted colonies.





Lessons Learned:

We learned that the need for TNR has increased since the pandemic, as much of it was put on hold for those two years. We also learned that it has become more difficult to get appointments at spay/neuter clinics, which are overburdened. One solution for this is to schedule appointments much further in advance of the trapping.

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