



FY2016 Cecil County, Maryland Targeted TNR Spay and Neuter Program

Project #
FY17-227

County: Cecil County, Maryland

Number of Cats Spayed:	390	Number of Dogs Spayed:	0
Number of Cats Neutered:	272	Number of Dogs Neutered:	0
Amount Received: \$37,655.00	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): 0		

Project Synopsis:

This project provided no charge spay and neuter services to feral colonies within Cecil County, Maryland. All felines received a rabies vaccine and an ear dock.



Project Description:

Chesapeake Feline Association (CFA) is non profit, no-kill, all volunteer feline rescue. CFA's project provided a comprehensive TNR program to feral identified colonies within Cecil County, Maryland during the time period 8/31/2016 to 8/31/2017. The MDA Grant award funded 500 ferals to be altered and rabies vaccinated. The targeted areas for this grant award included Perryville (zip Code 21903), North East (21901) and Eklton (21921) Maryland. Cecil County has a population of 11.2% who live under the poverty level, this has contributed to the feral colony increase of unaltered felines.

CFA has identified approximately 9,000 unaltered felines within Cecil County. CFA was able to alter 662 felines during this grant award timeline. All felines were altered, vaccinated and ear docked. The goal was to reach 100% of the felines within each targeted colony. Overall success rate was great, however there are still felines that need to be altered in several large colonies. Our goal is to continue to address these colonies on the next grant cycle. This project will decrease intakes to Cecil County Animal Services (CCAS) by approximately 20% yearly.

CFA also pulled any adoptable cat or kitten from identified colonies and provided vetting. These felines were placed in the adoption rotation with our partners Petco, NE and Petco, Belair MD. CFA was able to rescue 93 felines that now have a forever home.

CFA was able to provide outreach education through this grant award. Education included, peer to peer workshops and the formation of a Community Cat Coalition. This coalition is chaired by CCAS and Co-chaired by CFA. Through this forum additional colonies have identified and mapped within the County. The coalition



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is a non-judgmental environment for community residents to come and participate in the process to eradicate the overpopulation of free-roaming cats within Cecil County, Maryland.

Summary of Approach:

It is to be noted that during our new grant process we were still spaying and neutering overflow wait-listed surgeries scheduled during the 2015 grant award.

September 2016

Following the award announcement, the CFA Board members met to discuss the project plan and zip code target areas.

We formulated, printed and distributed all marketing material to the colony caregiver locations within the designated target areas.

Appointed spay/neuter scheduler responsible for logging and making appointments for the subsequent surgical schedules.

Late October – November

We announced our project on air at 104.7 radio. We were also interviewed by the Cecil County Whig newspaper notifying the residents in the county of our grant award and our desire to spay or neuter approximately 500 feral cats.

December – August 2017

We announced our program at all of our Fundraisers and on Social Media. We held monthly meetings with the community leaders.

We identified the need of forming a Community Coalition with our organization and CCAS. We continue to hold monthly meetings to engage more leaders, residents and volunteers into the program.

Accomplishments:

CFA is proud that we accomplished 662 felines altered, vaccinated and ear-tipped through this grant award. In addition, the Miss Cat Spay and Neuter Suite has been delivered and we anticipate its opening in the near future. Despite weather, vet cancellations and colony caregiver no-shows, 10 colonies were completed 100%.

The formation of the Community Cat Coalition has become an excellent resource for community members. As trust continues to grow for members of the community with CCAS and CFA, TNR inquiries for help have increased.

Lessons Learned:

CFA still needs to do a better job of engaging community caregivers to be part of the solution. Many of the caregivers are happy that the services will be provided, but are not willing to help trap, transport or recover the felines. It is apparent that CFA is in need of a van for transport. Many of the colony caregivers would not or could not transport the felines to the surgery appointments.

Attachments:

For More Information Contact:

Name:

Dawn Cowhey, President

Organization Name and Address:

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