



Worcester County TNVR

Project #
20-530

County: Worcester

Number of Cats Spayed:	381	Number of Dogs Spayed:	0
Number of Cats Neutered:	364	Number of Dogs Neutered:	0

Amount Received: #33,113.00	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00
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Project Synopsis:

This project targeted colonies of free-roaming cats in West Ocean City, Berlin, and Ocean Pines. TNVR services were provided to 381 females, 364 males, and an additional 29 cats that only needed a rabies vaccination. ALL cats within each colony were TNVR'd in order to ensure zero percent colony growth.



Project Description:

Forgotten Cats Inc., operating as a 501c3 since 2004, works to prevent the birth and suffering of unwanted kittens by controlling the free-roaming cat population through TNVR. We accomplish this mission by providing free or low-cost sterilization for caregivers of homeless cats in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey. Our specific services involve working with caregivers to identify ALL cats in a colony, after which we trap, transport, sterilize, recuperate, and return feral cats to caregivers. Services are provided at one of our three clinics. Friendly cats and kittens under 12 weeks old are held and placed in one of our nine off-site adoption centers. Since our inception, we have sterilized over 140,000 cats and placed over 16,000 into loving forever homes.

In an effort to reduce intake & euthanasia at Worcester County Animal Control and provide a humane solution to control the free-roaming cat population in Worcester County, we conducted targeted TNVR of colonies in West Ocean City, Berlin, and Ocean Pines. The project started on October 22, 2019 and it was completed on September 24th, 2020. These cities were targeted because they were reported as the areas of highest intake and euthanasia for Worcester County Animal Control. Based on the "divide by 15" rule, there are an estimated 1,384 free-roaming cats in our target area. Throughout the project, we used the only effective TNVR protocol which involves working closely with the colony caregiver in order to trap 100% of the cats residing in the colony so that there is zero percent colony growth. In addition to reducing intake and euthanasia, this project also aimed to reduce the free-roaming cat population, reduce the risk of rabies spread, and reduce complaint calls to animal control.



Summary of Approach:

Due to our prior and concurrent MDA projects in Wicomico County, we received TNVR requests for neighboring Worcester County prior to the project start. Once funding was received, we began the project immediately. While we started TNVR'ing colonies on our waiting list, we began marketing the project via social media. Throughout the duration of the project we received regular requests for help. We TNVR'd colony after colony through a complaint-driven approach. Already having an infrastructure in place with our resources, employees, and volunteers allowed us a quick and easy start.

October 22nd 2019-September 24th, 2020: Working closely with colony caregivers, our trapper aimed to TNVR at least two colonies every 2 weeks. In order to stabilize each colony, we continuously trapped until ALL cats were caught. All cats were transported to one of our facilities where they were sterilized, vaccinated (rabies & FVRCP), received flea and parasite treatment, ear-tipped, and provided additional medical treatment if required. Feral cats were given time to recuperate before they were released to their caregiver. At the time of release, our trapper provided the caregiver with all medical records and provided education on proper colony management moving forward (winter shelters, feeding, etc.). Friendly cats and kittens under 12 weeks of age were held and placed for adoption.

Accomplishments:

- 1.) From 2018 to 2019, Worcester County Animal Control saw a 58% reduction in shelter intake and a 61% reduction in euthanasia.
- 2.) Due to our increased presence in the county, more and more people are learning about our organization and TNVR. We believe people are calling Forgotten Cats over animal control to address their free-roaming cat issues.
- 3.) TNVR'd 745 free-roaming cats residing in West Ocean City, Berlin, and Ocean Pines.
- 4.) We estimate this project prevented the birth of roughly 1900 kittens that would have otherwise been born.
- 5.) 319 cats were held and placed for adoption.

Lessons Learned:

- 1.) Prepare for the unexpected! COVID-19 impacted us greatly. Specifically, for this program (aside from the mandatory shut down on TNVR), we had a ton of adoptable cats and no where to show them with our adoption centers closing. We quickly revamped our online adoption program and rolled out our new mobile adoption center. Our mobile adoption center has 14 cages and a meet and greet space. We can park it in any parking lot and facilitate adoptions. This unit was essential in moving out cats and kittens.
- 2.) Completing the Worcester County TNVR project alongside our Salisbury TNVR project significantly increased our shelter intake (especially during kitten season). As we are obligated to keep all the friendly cats and kittens through this program, we made it work. We established three New England partners that we transported shelter cats to in order to increase our capacity. We entered another PetSmart location for another adoption outlet. And we increased our efforts on finding more foster homes.

Attachments:

-List of altered cats

For More Information Contact:**Name:**

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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM**

