



Feral Cat Project

Project #

21-608

County: Prince George's

Number of Cats Spayed: 71

Number of Dogs Spayed: 0

Number of Cats Neutered: 71

Number of Dogs Neutered: 0

Amount Received: \$5,880.00

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

Project Synopsis:

ACLR has been building relationships in the Upper Marlboro, MD, area for approximately two years. There is currently no rescue that actively serves the area, and we initially identified more than 13 cat colonies in need of assistance at the start of the funding cycle. After actively working in the area, we discovered that we had underestimated the need for TNR greatly, and that there are many people in the area willing to help contain the problem. With proper canvassing and identification, outreach, and coordinated TNR efforts, we were able to meet the funding goal with ease and continue working in the region beyond the exhaustion of grant funds.



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Project Description:

ACLR sought to implement the program into the neighborhoods of Upper Marlboro, MD. In 2019, Prince George's County euthanized over 1,700 cats and although the shelter's overall trend was declining for both intake and euthanasia rates, the target region's intake and euthanasia rates remained consistent. Given the 52% euthanasia rate in the target region in 2019, there was a clear need for TNR in Upper Marlboro, MD. ACLR set traps, transported the cats to the spay/neuter clinics, released them to the original colony, and ensured they received the proper care. ACLR aimed to spay/neuter 98 cats, as determined by the grant allocation, and to reduce the euthanasia rate by 15% in the target area.

Summary of Approach:

ACLR canvassed and documented the location of cat colonies in the target areas. A spreadsheet was made to track all reports of colony information (location, point of contact/caregiver, # of cats, condition of cats, presence of ear tip). A volunteer was assigned to manage the next phase of outreach. The volunteer contacted the caregiver to gather any missing information and set up a site visit. The volunteer also canvassed the area to identify any other feeders and inform community members of the program to encourage support. A date was set within two weeks from the site visit. Cats were trapped and transported to the clinic the following day, and held by ACLR before and after surgery and released the following day based on vet recommendations. All records were entered into ACLR's database ensuring the complete sterilization of the colony. In addition, volunteers provided caregivers with access to training and sterilization of any future cats arriving in the colonies.

Accomplishments:

We were able to trap and spay/neuter enough cats to meet the year-long goal in less than half that amount of time, with a limited number of volunteers and traps. We were also able to significantly expand our presence and letting people know about our services in the area, as people learned to trust us and contact us for our services. We reduced intakes from the Upper Marlboro area by 27% and euthanasia rates by 30%, surpassing our goal of a 15% reduction.



Lessons Learned:

We learned that we drastically underestimated the need in the project designated zip codes, as we used our allotted funding only halfway into the project. We need to identify other funding sources in order to continue adequately serving the cats and feeders of the project area zip codes. We also need to expand our outreach to recruit more trappers, and obtain separate funding for more traps. Finally, we believe that we can benefit from more outreach to the Spanish-speaking community, as PG County has a large number of Spanish-speaking individuals, and our ability in this area can use improvement.

For More Information Contact:

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