



Feral Cat Project

Project #

21-626

County: MD

Number of Cats Spayed: 415

Number of Dogs Spayed: 0

Number of Cats Neutered: 300

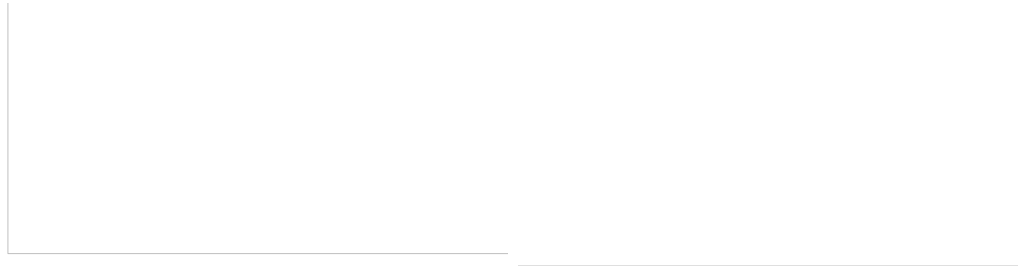
Number of Dogs Neutered: 0

Amount Received: \$36,078.30

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

Project Synopsis:

This project was a Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage effort to trap, sterilize, and vaccinate 630 community cats in the City of Hagerstown and surrounding area in Washington County, MD. Tip Me Frederick was ultimately able to fix 715 cats!



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Project Description:

Hagerstown Feral Fix was a 12-month (Jan 2021-Dec 2021) Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage project through which Tip Me Frederick (TMF) sterilized and vaccinated 715 community cats whose colony caregivers reside in or close to the City of Hagerstown in Washington County. The project involved working with colony caregivers to trap unaltered cats; transporting the cats to and from Hagerstown to Davidsonville to our low-cost veterinary clinic partner, Spay Spa and Neuter Nook (SSNN) and/or the Humane Society of Washington County (HSWC); sterilization and vaccination for rabies and feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia (FVRCP); housing cats during recovery; and, returning the cats to their colony caregivers post-recovery. The costs of sterilization and the rabies vaccination were covered 100% by the MDA, while TMF covered the cost of the FVRCP vaccine and other extraordinary medical costs for sick or injured cats. These expenses totaled \$7,074 and were funded through individual donations and social media fundraising efforts. In most cases, colony caregivers were unable to afford sterilization/vaccination services through local veterinarians, making this program the only

Summary of Approach:

TMF worked with over 64 colony caregivers located in the City of Hagerstown and surrounding areas to identify and trap unaltered cats. In some cases, when a caregiver was unable to trap, TMF volunteers performed the trapping in the 24 hours prior to a scheduled clinic. On the morning of the clinic, TMF rented a van and transported an average of 30 cats to SSNN (or HSWC) for sterilization and vaccination. TMF volunteers then returned cats to their colony caregivers once they were fully recovered. In the course of this grant, TMF identified 96 kittens (under 5 months), all of which were fostered and made available for adoption. While we worked closely with local cat rescue groups such as Friends for Life and Animal Welfare League of Frederick County (whose main mission is to foster and adopt cats and kittens), TMF also fostered and adopted out kittens from this effort.

Accomplishments:

TMF sterilized and vaccinated 715 cats, 85 more than our target of 630. This was possible because in the early months of the program, SSNN and HSWC were able to give TMF discounts. Of the total 715 sterilized, 400 or 56% were females. We helped 9 large colonies, as well as dozens smaller (3-7 cats) colonies. As public awareness of TMF's program continues to grow throughout Frederick and Washington Counties, and by relying on social media, TMF no longer has to invest any funds or effort in publicity to ensure clinics are full. This allows us to use funds solely for veterinary care. Also, we continued to see ~35% of the cats coming into clinics with medical issues such as infections that required TMF to cover extra medical expenses such as antibiotics, as well as several enucleations, umbilical hernias, and amputations.



Lessons Learned:

TMF's process is well-documented and understood by our volunteers. Our greatest challenge with this grant was a change in ownership and management of SSNN which resulted in many difficulties, increased prices for required medications and treatments, and the ultimate decision to no longer work together. This meant that TMF had to rely on HSWC to perform many more surgeries than they originally committed to us. We also utilized the services of our regular vets who gave us dramatically reduced rates to stay within grant parameters though they could not perform large single day clinics. This situation over the last few months of the grant resulted in us conducting multiple clinics per month, each with fewer cats per clinic -- while it enabled us to ultimately surpass our target, it was taxing on our limited volunteer pool.

For More Information Contact:

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