



## Wicomico County TNVR

Project #

21-628

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County: New Castle County

Number of Cats Spayed: 545

Number of Dogs Spayed: 0

Number of Cats Neutered: 447

Number of Dogs Neutered: 0

Amount Received: \$42,500.00

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

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### Project Synopsis:

This project provided TNVR services to free-roaming cats in Salisbury (zip codes 21801 and 21804), Willards, Fruitland, and Pittsville. In total, 1011 cats were trapped, sterilized, and vaccinated. ALL cats within each colony were TNVR'd in order to ensure zero percent colony growth.



Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



## **Project Description:**

In an effort to reduce intake and euthanasia at the Humane Society of Wicomico County, we conducted targeted TNVR of colonies in Salisbury (21801 & 21804), Willards, Fruitland, and Pittsville. The project was started on March 25th, 2021 and completed on December 16th, 2021. These zip codes were targeted because they were reported as areas of highest intake and euthanasia for the Humane Society of Wicomico County. 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:**

This project was started immediately after the completion of our previous MDA grant which also funded TNVR in Wicomico County. Through our work in the area during that project, we began to receive regular requests for help and so we were able to TNVR colony after colony through a complaint-driven approach. After having an infrastructure in place with our resources, employees, and volunteers allowed us a quick and easy start. We created and distributed a flyer to promote our services. 3/25/21-12/16/21: Working closely with colony caregivers, our trapper aimed to TNVR at least one to two colonies every two 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 (FVRCP & Rabies), received flea and parasite treatment, ear-tipped, and provided additional medical care if required. Feral cats were released and friendly cats were placed for adoption.

## **Accomplishments:**

1.) Relief on shelter intake for the Humane Society of Wicomico County. 2.) TNVR'd 1011 free-roaming cats in the above Wicomico County cities. 3.) We estimate that this project prevented the birth of roughly 2700 kittens that would have otherwise been born. 4.) Hundreds of cats were held and placed for adoption. 5.) Many cats received life-saving and life-changing medical care. Some additional surgeries performed on cats brought in through this project included but were not limited to: entropion repair, enucleations, dentals, prolapsed rectum repair, polyp removal, and leg amputation (pictured above).



## **Lessons Learned:**

1.) Communication is key. There are many volunteers involved in order to pull off a project of this magnitude. It is very important everyone is on the same page and is aware of the grant guidelines. 2.) We are living in unprecedented times. It is best to get an early start on the project in case of clinical delays related to the pandemic.

## **For More Information Contact:**

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