



Cecil County, Maryland targeted TNR spay/neuter Program

Project #
FY16-119

County: Cecil County, Maryland

Number of Cats Spayed:	201	Number of Dogs Spayed:	0
Number of Cats Neutered:	156	Number of Dogs Neutered:	0

Amount Received: \$25,103.00	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0
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Project Synopsis:

"The Cecil County, Maryland targeted TNR/Spay and Neuter program" focused on feral colonies within two targeted areas within Cecil County- Elkton and Port Deposit, Maryland. The project supported efforts to alter felines with a target of 400.



Project Description:

Chesapeake Feline Association (CFA) was formed and approved as a 501c3 organization in October 2009. CFA is an all-volunteer, non-profit, no-kill feline rescue. CFA's major goal is to address and reduce the unchecked breeding of free roaming cat, thereby addressing the over population crisis in Cecil County. CFA's goal was to address and provide spay/neuter services to colonies within Elkton and Port Deposit, Maryland. CFA employed a systematic approach to accomplish this project.

The main goal of this award was to reduce the overpopulation of unsterilized cats in the targeted areas.

Through this grant CFA was able to drastically reduce the numbers in these two major targeted areas. CFA worked closely with colony caretakers to complete this project with the funding provided. This project helped to decrease the breeding while providing the community leaders with a solution to address their feral crisis in Cecil County. Community education also was a key component to the success of this project.

This grant provided spay/neuter services, rabies and ear docks to all felines in the program.

CFA was also able to purchase much needed traps and nets that are integral to the TNR process. These traps provide a safe and humane way to catch and release the felines.

Summary of Approach:

The first step of this program was to identify the large colonies within Elkton and Port Deposit, Maryland. The second phase was to engage the colony caretakers to take ownership to ensure success of the program.



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Through coordinated efforts of both CFA and the Colony caretakers we formulated a systematic approach method.

CFA then spoke with our DVM's to schedule surgeries weekly. CFA also distributed flyers and door hangers to the surrounding houses where the colonies were located to inform them of TNR dates. Many of the neighbors participated in this community effort with help setting traps, transporting and providing canned food for bait.

CFA was able to utilize 3 DVM's to provide spay/neuter services through this grant award. Friendly Paw's Vet Clinic provided guidance and procedure protocols to Oxford Vet and Animal Wellness Clinic. Dr. Price DVM provided consultation when needed to all parties during the grant cycle.

Accomplishments:

CFA is proud of our accomplishments. With the grant funding provided, CFA altered 357 felines in the targeted colonies. Through this generous grant from The Maryland Department of Agriculture Spay and Neuter program, CFA altered many females that previously had multiple litters. Through our spay/neuter program we have prevented many future litters from being born. As the TNR efforts gathered momentum so did the support from county officials and community members. CFA believes that this project has highlighted the need to continue to address additional feral colonies within our county we serve.

CFA is also proud that all of these feral cats were treated with dignity and respect.

Because of this project and the support of funding through MDA, CFA anticipates we will open a Spay/Neuter surgical suite in Perryville, Maryland in January 2017.

CFA continues to work with colony leaders to receive updates of any new felines entering the colonies. To better the lives of these colonies, CFA volunteers also worked with the community to build and provide winter shelters for these animals. We believe CFA has improved the living conditions for these colonies.

CFA also rescued 79 kittens from the two towns. These kittens have been vetted and adopted to their forever homes.

Lessons Learned:

Although CFA has always believed in addressing TNR colonies, this grant funding emphasized that this project only addressed a small portion of the feral colony issues within Cecil County.

CFA did not anticipate the number of miscellaneous expenses that would be incurred as a result of this project. Feral cats do not see a vet on a regular basis. They often suffer with many chronic conditions such as URI's, eye infections and wounds on their bodies that needed to be addressed prior to TNR release.

Weather conditions and transportation to the veterinarian sometimes provided challenges. CFA decided early on that the felines would recover overnight at a board member's house. This ensured that if any surgical complications occurred they could be addressed immediately.

For More Information Contact:

Name:

Dawn Cowhey, President

Organization Name and Address:
North East, MD 21901

Chesapeake Feline Association PO Box 743
Email: chesapeakefelineassociation@gmail.com



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