



Spay It Forward-MCPAW

Project #
FY16-121

County: Montgomery

Number of Cats Spayed: 205
Number of Cats Neutered: 158

Number of Dogs Spayed:
Number of Dogs Neutered:

Amount Received: \$19,820

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0

Project Synopsis:

Beginning in February 1, 2016, Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being (MCPAW) has worked with area volunteers, colony caretakers, and veterinary clinics to trap, spay/neuter, vaccinate, ear tip, and microchip as many feral cats as possible. MCPAW's goal is to decrease the number of cats entering the sheltering system and to reduce the euthanasia rate. During this project timeframe, we were able to successfully fix 363 cats and prevent an estimated 1,200 kitten births.



Project Description:

MCPAW is the 5013c nonprofit partner of Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC). MCPAW's primary mission is to provide resources and support to benefit the animals residing at the MCASAC. As part of our broader mission, we work to identify and influence the main reasons that animals end up in shelters and to promote positive relationships between people and animals in Montgomery County. Through special projects and programs, we strive to be a catalyst for education and change for the benefit of the animals and the residents of Montgomery County. The emphasis of this ongoing TNR project is to reduce the number of homeless cats coming into the shelter by preventing births of more cats.

By establishing relationships with county-wide volunteers who work with cat colony caretakers to trap feral cats, MCPAW has been able to offer free spay/neuter and return (TNR) services to the community. Free rabies vaccines, ear tipping, and self-funded microchips have also been made available to these cats. Excluded from the project are additional surgeries or treatments.

MCPAW has partnered with several clinics to provide negotiated prices for spay/neuter, vaccines, and microchipping. Spay Now Animal Surgery Clinic in Laurel, Maryland, Metro Ferals Clinic in Eldersburg, Maryland, and Diamond Veterinary Hospital in Gaithersburg, Maryland are the primary facilities we use.

Summary of Approach:



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MCPAW selected projects based on need, size, and scope, and our ability to bring the appropriate resources to the project. Before committing to a project, we had a discussion with the property owner or authorized representative to be sure the requisite permission to trap-neuter(spay)-return was granted. We also ensured that a dedicated and competent colony manager was secured. With the assistance of volunteer trappers and transporters, we scheduled and completed the TNR. We committed to trapping 100% of the cats in each colony to manage growth and ensure a “no kitten zone.” We also developed relationships with partners who will help deliver quality of life to the cats in the colonies to provide food, build shelters, and provide straw. We used social media, our website, and educational workshops to share our successes while maintaining the confidentiality of the colony locations and caretakers.

Accomplishments:

The Spay It Forward program in 2016 was highly successful, having TNR'd 380 (17 were found to have been previously spayed/neutered) cats in about 54 locations between February 1 and September 30, 2016. The colonies were located in Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Germantown, Kensington, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, Olney, Poolesville, Rockville, Silver Spring, Takoma Park, and Wheaton. Several of the colonies were quite large, having up to 43 cats. At each location, we obtained the required signed property permission forms, with each colony assured to have a reliable caretaker. All cats were ear tipped, vaccinated against rabies, and microchipped. MCPAW self-funds the microchips. Because of these efforts, we estimate to have prevented over 1,200 kittens from being born, thus reducing the intake to MCASAC and euthanasia rates of cats at MCASAC.

Lessons Learned:

We discovered that there are many caring people who are willing to help the animals, we just need to find them and ask. This project showed how well people work together for a good cause. MCPAW is grateful for such generous volunteers.

Due to the paperwork intensiveness of this project, it was important to keep current, accurate records of all permission forms and invoices.

Attachments:

For More Information Contact:

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