



Spay/Neuter St Mary's County Felines

Project #
17-214

County: St Mary's County

Number of Cats Spayed:	173	Number of Dogs Spayed:	0
Number of Cats Neutered:	130	Number of Dogs Neutered:	0

Amount Received: \$12,750	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): 0
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Project Synopsis:

This project targeted feral cats in zip codes 20653, 20619, 20650, 20636 and 20659. We originally asked for \$17,000 to vet 400 feral cats. We received \$12,750 and fixed 303 cats.



Project Description:

Feral Cat Rescue's main mission is to improve the lives of feral cats by doing Trap, Neuter Return. We also take in the babies of the feral cats to domesticate and find inside only homes. We have been doing this for 10 years. We targeted the more populated and commercial areas of our county where we knew many ferals live out of dumpsters and in the yards of citizens. When we started in 2007 Tri County Shelter was euthanizing 550 cats per month. When we started this project it was 197 per month. We just found out last week that in this fiscal year it has dropped to 160 per month. Since we are at Petco every Saturday and Sunday we do a tremendous amount of outreach and education.

Summary of Approach:

Feral Cat Rescue has a reputation in St Mary's for helping with feral cats. Animal Control, other rescue groups and vet offices refer people to us for Trap, Neuter, Return. We mostly advertise on social media and at our adoption events. There is not a shortage of people and feral cats to help.

Accomplishments:

Feral Cat Rescue vetted 303 cats using this grant. The number of cats euthanized at the shelter was reduced. Our President, Diane Harris applied to be on the advisory board at the shelter and has a 4 year term. Our group got so many people to write letters to the County Commissioners that they became very aware of the needs of animals in our county and invited Diane along with 3 other rescuers to be on a committee to create new animal ordinances in our County. Just today we found out that the Commissioners voted unanimously to establish a St Mary's County Shelter instead of being part of Tri County Shelter. We became more well known and people will contact us for help with spay/neuter for feral cats. We also were able to get a speaker from Alley Cat Allies to speak before Animal Control about TNR and to help them help the community keep cats out of their yard instead of automatically taking feral cats to the shelter and to reinforce the idea of referring people to Feral Cat Rescue for help with feral cats.



Lessons Learned:

From being with Animal Control officers and County Commissioners at meetings to develop animal ordinances we were able to see their perspective and gain insight into ways to work with Animal Control. New volunteers learned to trap. They learned to zip tie traps open and feed the cats in the traps all week so on trapping day they cats would go into the traps after the zip ties are cut.

Attachments:

303 receipts and lists of all the cats

For More Information Contact:**Name:**

Diane, Harris

Organization Name and Address:

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