



Cheap Fix Cat Clinic

Project #
20-503

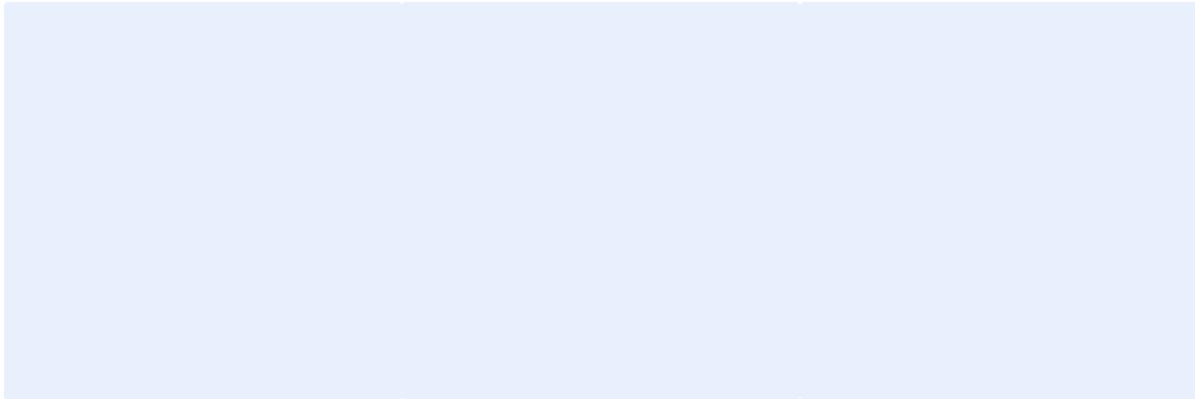
County: Prince George's County

Number of Cats Spayed:	463	Number of Dogs Spayed:	x
Number of Cats Neutered:	463	Number of Dogs Neutered:	x

Amount Received: \$37,111.60	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): 0.00
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Project Synopsis:

This project sterilized cats identified in colonies in the target zipcodes of 20712, 20722, 20781, 20782, 20783, 20784, 20785, 20787, 20788, 20737, and 20710.



Project Description:

Alley Cat Rescue helped to expand the CheapFix Cat Clinic which provided free, targeted feral cat spay/neuter for the critically underserved cities of Brentwood, Mount Rainier and Hyattsville (herby referred to as the “target region”), to effectively reduce the euthanasia rates of cats. Last year, Prince George’s County Animal Shelter euthanized 1,820 cats. Through the Cheapfix Cat Clinic ACR had reduced the intake of cats from the targeted region by 18% and euthanasia rates by 38%. ACR operated a bimonthly spay/neuter clinic to provide services for individuals whom would find surgery and transportation costs prohibitive.

Summary of Approach:

Alley Cat Rescue worked with the caretakers for the 152 identified colonies within the target region to fully sterilize the existing colonies. Alley Cat Rescue additionally collaborated with Prince George's County Animal Shelter to identify colonies that are a source of intake for the shelter from this target region, and to return to field any eartipped cats who become impounded.

1. Targeting: Alley Cat Rescue worked with feral cat caretakers to target whole colonies in specific regions. Targeting happens in two ways -- at the colony level and at the commuity level. Alley Cat Rescue ensured that caretakers have the appropriate tools and traps needed to trap every cat to get the colony to 100% sterilization. Alley Cat Rescue focused efforts zipcode by zipcode, depending on which zipcode had the densest population.
2. Collecting, transporting, and short-term care: Alley Cat Rescue strategically approached colony caretakers to trap whole colonies of cats during the bi-monthly clinics. Cats were then dropped off at the Alley Cat Rescue office except in special circumstances where no transportation was available, in which case Alley Cat Rescue picked up cats from a resident. Alley Cat Rescue has a care room and quarantine space on-site at the office,



allowing space for cats in need of short-term care. For instance, in cases where residents are unable to pick up a cat in the evening after surgery, Alley Cat Rescue has sufficient space, staffing, and supplies to provide overnight care to the cats. Cats must be brought to the clinic in a covered humane trap and all participating cats will receive an eartip.

3. Training and Permissions: Alley Cat Rescue offered comprehensive training on best practices for trapping to anyone participating in the program to ensure the person trapping is doing so effectively, humanely, and legally. Training includes proper monitoring of traps, preventing the unintentional trapping of wildlife and the importance of feeding schedules to deter wildlife from becoming dependent on colony caretakers as a food source. Alley Cat Rescue obtains liability forms for transporting cats to surgery, and permission slips to enter property if at any time Alley Cat Rescue must do so -- though typically Alley Cat Rescue simply be receiving trapped cats from the public and not enter the property.

4. Trap loaning: Alley Cat Rescue does not physically go out and trap cats for the public; Alley Cat Rescue provides traps and training to the public so that they may trap cats on their own property, and bring them in for affordable services. By offering traps, training, and transportation, Alley Cat Rescue meets the most pertinent needs of people who care for feral cats. A trap loan form is filled out by any person loaning a trap, which includes agreeing only to use the traps for purposes of TNR, and certifying that they are the property owner or have permission to trap on the property.

5. Returning: Cats not entered into an adoption program are returned to their outdoor homes by the colony caretakers who brought them into the clinic. Caretakers may pick up the cats directly after surgery between 5 and 6pm and recover them overnight at home, or the following day after they have recovered overnight in Alley Cat Rescue's secure overnight room.

6. Monitoring and Caretaking: Alley Cat Rescue has a large garage attached to the office, in which bulk supplies of cat food and care supplies are kept to be distributed to colony cats. A 20 hour per week volunteer monitors and feeds Alley Cat Rescue's colony cats, and food is available to colony caretakers who are unable to purchase food themselves. All caretakers are trained in proper feeding methods to ensure that feeding is sanitary and does not create a nuisance. Alley Cat Rescue feeds 1/2 cup of food per day per cat, in a covered feeding station. Colonies are monitored and any new cats are immediately brought in for spay/neuter surgery.

7. Long Term Management: Alley Cat Rescue worked from the document which tracks the 229 colonies, checking in each month on any colonies which are not sterilized to completion.

Accomplishments:

We have a total of 926 surgeries performed on cats, which exceeds the anticipated number. The project was a success.

Lessons Learned:

We learned that there is a significant need for TNR in the listed zipcodes and that more TNR and more veterinary care is necessary. We also learned that there is a need beyond the listed zipcodes.

Attachments:

For More Information Contact:

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Organization Name and Address:

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