



# Feral Cat Project

Project #

21-638

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County: Prince George's

Number of Cats Spayed: 156

Number of Dogs Spayed: 0

Number of Cats Neutered: 187

Number of Dogs Neutered: 0

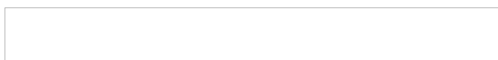
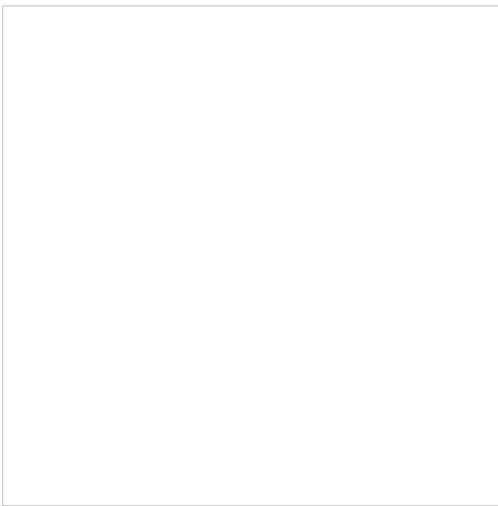
Amount Received: \$17,550.00

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

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## Project Synopsis:

Laurel Cats and Beltsville Community Cats continued our TNVR work in Laurel and Beltsville, Maryland.



Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



## **Project Description:**

Grant funds were used to continue with the expansion work from Laurel into Beltsville with significant results (see outcomes section). Cats in both communities were trapped and taken to the vet to be altered and vaccinated before being returned to their caretakers.

## **Summary of Approach:**

BCC uses numerous outreach strategies. Articles in the Beltsville News and word of mouth are the most effective. Participation in the PG Community Cats Coalition has proven to be a great resource for the calls BCC receives from surrounding areas. Information gathered through calls, social media & outreach is used to identify sites for targeted trapping. When surgery appointments are available, BCC picks a trapping site, gets a Permission to Enter Property form signed, hard sets traps that are left for a couple of days, & instructs the caretaker not to feed the day before the trapping. Trapped cats are held overnight before and after surgery and released the day after surgery. In Laurel, our sustained community based approach over the past decade has developed a ground swelling of support for our work. Most Laurel cat owners know of us and our work and reach out to us as soon as they see unfixed cats, kittens, or abandoned cats allowing our teams to quickly.

## **Accomplishments:**

BCC fixed 129 cats (61 M/68 F) using MDA funds (41 in the 4th quarter). In terms of targeted trapping, BCC fixed 25 cats in Beltsville Heights, 9 in North Creek, 19 in Newport Town, 32 on East Maple Ave, and 26 on Sycamore Rd. PG ASD reports a decrease in the number of feral cats taken into the shelter and an increase of 2% a year in their live release rate for cats for the past 2 years. This is credited to MDA funding and the "Release to Field" initiative (a partnership between PGASD & the PG Community Cats Coalition) under which feral cats (both ear-tipped & unaltered) are picked up by local cat groups and released to field rather than being euthanized. Unaltered cats are fixed prior to being released. BCC released 9 cats under this initiative in 2021. In Laurel, we estimate more than 95% of free roaming cats have been altered, and shelter intake is virtually non-existent due to our sustained TNVR and pet cat spay/neuter work funded in large part by this program. THANK YOU!!!



## Lessons Learned:

BCC's management of 20 feral colonies on commercial/industrial sites has provided a unique opportunity to monitor daily for unaltered cats and abandoned house cats (an emerging trend). We are now identifying residents and employees who feed colonies not managed by BCC to closely monitor for the appearance of unaltered cats and abandoned house cats. Our decade of community cat work in Laurel has shown that most people are generally good people who genuinely wish to help cats. It requires an organized and sustained approach based on compassion to show people and teach a community how to help and be part of a solution for our community cats.

## For More Information Contact:

Helen Woods

## Organization Name and Address:

PO Box 57

Laurel, Maryland 20725

**Phone: 240-620-8926**

**Email:** [helen@laurelcats.org](mailto:helen@laurelcats.org)



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