



Chesapeake Feline Association
Feral Spay and Neuter – Save Feline Lives

Project #
24-9046

Date of Report: 1/17/24

Project Focus: Feral Cat

County(ies) Serviced: Cecil County, Harford County

Total Number of Cats Spayed: 206

Total Number of Cats Neutered: 159

Total Number of Surgeries: 365

Amount Received: \$19,460.00 **Amount Spent:** \$19,460.00 **Amount Remaining (to be returned):** \$0.00

Project Synopsis:

Chesapeake Feline Association's "Feral Spay and Neuter – Save Lives" Project focused on feral colonies in targeted areas of Cecil County, as well as the spay and neuter of felines owned by low-income residents of Cecil and Harford Counties. The Project supported efforts to alter felines with a target goal of 336.

Project Description:

Chesapeake Feline Association ("CFA") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer, no-kill feline rescue. CFA's main goals for this Project were (i) to continue to reduce the feral cat overpopulation in Cecil and Harford Counties where there are many unsterilized felines; and (ii) to provide low-income residents of these counties with free spay and neuter services in order to ensure that owned cats did not also contribute to the feral, unsterilized population.

Summary of Approach:

CFA identified feral colonies for TNR, found homes for many of our in-house cats, and provided free spay/neuter services to low-income residents. CFA undertook efforts to engage partner clinics in order to continue to provide spay/neuter services for feral/TNR cats, as well as owned cats of low-income residents. We have fostered strong relationships with Brandywine Valley SPCA for weekly spay and neuter clinics and with Padfoot Mobile Veterinary Practice as our in-house veterinarian. By initiating an organized transport system to Brandywine Valley SPCA in New Castle, DE for surgeries, we were able to continue to get targeted cats in Cecil and Harford Counties spayed and neutered. CFA truly cares about all of the cats that come into our care. For this reason, when a cat is brought in for spay/neuter, we ensure that it also receives all vaccinations, microchips and any necessary medical care at CFA's own expense.

Accomplishments:

CFA is very proud of our accomplishments, especially considering the significant obstacles we had to overcome in 2024. CFA has steadily increased our TNR work. We have continued to work in existing colonies, aid colony caretakers and identify where new colonies should be targeted. We have almost completed our work with a colony of 45. We work tirelessly to provide needed spay/neuter feline services to the Cecil and Harford County region. The nationwide veterinary shortage impacts rural areas hard, so we are proud to do what can to meet the community's needs with regard to spay/neuter services for feral/TNR cats as well as those owned by low-income residents. CFA truly cares about all of the cats that come into our care, so when a cat is brought in for spay/neuter, we ensure that it also receives all vaccinations



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and other important medical care at CFA's own expense. We feel strongly about taking care of the medical needs of any feral cats before releasing them back into the community.

Lessons Learned:

In 2023 we lost our surgical suite and our numbers dropped. With our new partnerships in 2024, we had hopes of spay/neutering more cats than ever. Unfortunately, we ran short of funds before the end of the year and for the month of December were unable to pay for services. However, we accomplished a great deal with the funds available and have identified more work to be done in the coming year. We have made more connections with the public and have creatively engaged them to facilitate adoptions. Transportation continues to be an issue and finding volunteers to drive the cats to Brandywine is difficult. We sometimes have difficulty obtaining the needed documentation from our partners. However, we have learned to be flexible, persistent, resilient and to creatively solve any issues we may run across.

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