



A Trip to Snip

Project #

24-9052

County: Dorchester

Number of Cats Spayed: 124

Number of Dogs Spayed:

Number of Cats Neutered: 133

Number of Dogs Neutered:

Amount Received: \$12,800

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

Project Synopsis:

Another successful grant project is complete. We were able to successfully TNvR 13 target colonies in full, as well as other "nearby" cats that were found to be contributing to colony growth. Despite losing one volunteer veterinarian, we were still able to alter 257 cats, one more than proposed!



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Project Description:

By operating a HQHVSN clinic that performs surgeries once a month, Snip Tuck was able to successfully reduce feline over-population in Dorchester County, and prevent shelter intake and/or euthanasia of those cats and their kittens.

Summary of Approach:

As outlined, our volunteers worked with colony caretakers to trap entire colonies per the best practice guidelines. Patients were transported to our clinic where the "Nv" part of TNvR was successfully performed on all 257 cats, and later returned to their colonies. We continue to use the method of targeting colonies in their entirety, whenever possible, to prevent the birth of more kittens that re-populate the colony. We continue to identify "future ferals" with our boots to the ground approach.

Accomplishments:

By sterilizing and vaccinating 257 cats from at least 13 colonies, we estimate that we prevented the birth of over 100 unwanted kittens that would have otherwise been placed in a shelter, euthanized, or further contributed to the unwanted cat population for years to come. Including a rabies vaccine for each patient has further helped the caretakers by preventing the spread of the rabies virus.



Lessons Learned:

"The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." Our volunteers keep our clinic operating like a well-oiled machine. Lucky for us, we don't have a drastic turnover of volunteers. However, during this grant cycle, one of our volunteer veterinarians resigned from veterinary medicine entirely. The main lesson we learned was how to adapt procedures to continue operating at a worthwhile capacity. Although we didn't just learn this, losing a vet was a stark reminder that the veterinary field is understaffed underappreciated.

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