



**Feral Cat Rescue, Inc**  
*Community and Feral Cat Spay/Neuter*

**Project #**  
**24-9064**

**Date of Report:** 1/14/2025

**Project Focus:** Feral Cats

**County(ies) Serviced:** St. Mary's County

**Total Number of Cats Spayed:** 123

**Total Number of Cats Neutered:** 128

**Total Number of Surgeries:** 251

**Amount Received:** \$20,000.00    **Amount Spent:** \$20,000.00    **Amount Remaining (to be returned):** \$0.00

**Project Synopsis:**

Feral Cat Rescue targeted cats in the following zip codes: 20619, 20634, 20653, 20650, 20686, 20680 and 20684. We said we would provide surgery and rabies vaccines to 250 cats and with the money we did 251 cats. In 2024 we vetted 907 total cats. It is the most we have ever done. Feral Cat Rescue paid for 656 additional surgeries beyond this project.

**Project Description:**

We focused on certain areas in St Mary's County, where there were many feral cats. We vetted 251 with the grant money. As a result of trapping, we also took into our foster program 342 kittens and domesticated cats that had been dumped and found inside homes for the majority. We continued trapping after the grant money was spent and used donated money. Animal Control helped with trapping and reached out to many citizens by explaining the benefits of trapping rather than taking cats to the shelter to be euthanized. Our project also involved a lot of humane education. We taught many people to trap and to use best practices when doing so. This meant more community involvement. The project lasted from Jan 1 2024 to September 27th 2024.

**Summary of Approach:**

Feral Cat Rescue was first started in 2007. We are well known and people contact us. Also we have partnered with Animal Control and they refer a lot of people to us who want to do TNR. Since we do adoption events every Saturday and Sunday, people come into Petco and we talk to them about TNR. We also do a lot of Social media and our volunteers are always sharing our posts. We meet all the people and go over shelters, not using cans in traps, keeping cats cool or warm depending on the season, using towels to cover traps and calm the cats. We also tell them not to leave traps set over night. We remind them to contact us immediately when they see new cats in their colonies. Our trappers are routinely contacted by people who want help.

**Accomplishments:**

We vetted and returned 251 cats with the grant money. In addition, each cat was given dewormer and a distemper vaccine. We were able to vet 656 more cats with donated money. We were able to take 342 cats into our foster program and found inside homes for most of the foster cats. We gave people a lot of information so they could help cats themselves. Because we have done so much networking, we were asked to provide cats for the new Cat Cafe. Euthanasia rates have gone way down since our inception. Females are no longer being depleted from delivering 3 to 4 litters a year. Males are not fighting for mating rights. They are not travelling up to a mile away to mate and getting hit by cars. Neither sex will



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develop FIV once they are altered. Babies won't be born to wind up outside in the same predicament as their parents. We have improved the lives of feral cats exponentially.

**Lessons Learned:**

In the past we only trapped during the 3 warmer seasons. This past year we trapped in the winter. We checked traps very often and held the cats inside our homes rather than in a garage. This means less Spring babies. To save time and burn out, initially we tried to communicate by email rather than phone as some people will talk incessantly. We have learned to be kind to everyone so they will feel like they can come to us. We have had to learn to set boundaries. We have also learned that you have to follow up with people and ask if there are new cats in their colonies. They will not always show the initiative. We have learned we can get more done by getting the colony caretakers involved in the trapping if they are physically able. We also provided many drop off locations for transporting to the clinics.

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