



## Shadow Cats TNR

Targeted TNR - Community Trapping, Route 40 Corridor

Project #  
24-9078

**Date of Report:** 4/10/2025

**Project Focus:** Feral Cats

**County(ies) Serviced:** Harford County, Baltimore County, Cecil County

**Total Number of Cats Spayed:** 163

**Total Number of Cats Neutered:** 136

**Total Number of Surgeries:** 299

**Amount Received:** \$7,500.00

**Amount Spent:** \$7,500.00

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

### Project Synopsis:

With this grant from MDA, we were able to spay/neuter 300 cats under our Trap-Neuter-Return program. In the fall, we expanded our reach with an approved change of scope to include counties adjacent to Harford after receiving multiple requests for assistance from trappers in Baltimore and Cecil counties for surgery spaces, which we could accommodate. We also worked with dozens of cat caretakers and several local TNR partners to help as many Harford residents control the roaming cat population, identifying many more colony sites along the Route 40 corridor, particularly in Aberdeen and Joppa.

### Project Description:

The project focused on spay/neuter along the Route 40 corridor at the lowest cost possible in order to maximize the impact of this grant on reducing the roaming cat population. Halfway through our grant period, we were given free TNR surgery spaces, and our area of concentration was expanded beyond Harford County (a change of scope was approved) to assist a larger population after multiple people contacted us requesting help along a farther stretch of this highway.

### Summary of Approach:

We conducted several community trapping sessions in the Edgewood and Aberdeen areas and continued to advertise our services, including renting a billboard on Route 40, in order to reach as many people in the target area in Harford as possible. When we were contacted by trappers in the Baltimore County area, we developed several new partnerships that brought more trappers into our network. With an approved scope change, SCTNR funded up to one-half of the cost of surgeries, using more expensive but approved providers, in order to stay on course to both reach our population goal and to expend grant money timely.

### Accomplishments:

We successfully spayed/neutered a total of 300 cats at \$25 per surgery (299 are reported due to an earlier math error) under this grant. In executing the program, we expanded our network of partners and have gained additional trappers and even foster families for strays that are adoptable. Because we were given free TNR spaces under a new grant managed by our primary service provider, BVSPCA, our expenditure under this grant was slower than planned starting in August 2024, but, fortunately, we were able to take advantage of this unexpected offer to achieve 350 additional TNR surgeries (which would have been MDA grant-funded otherwise).



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**Lessons Learned:**

Outreach is time-consuming but necessary in order to continue to locate cat colonies and caretakers that need services. Through continuous outreach, we are able to stabilize the roaming cat population in more contiguous areas. We need to continue to advertise services in as many ways as we can afford; our marketing coordinator is making great progress in bringing attention to our now 10-year program so that more residents know about our services. We also need to revisit known sites more frequently where renters come and go, often leaving cats behind, since those housing communities see new cats coming to feeding stations but do not always quickly alert us. Our outreach coordinator will follow up with those large colony sites each quarter so that we can schedule community trapping events before the cat population increases again.

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