

Montgomery County Community Cat Coalition, Inc.

Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return in Silver Spring/Wheaton

Project # 24-9098

Date of Report: 1/20/2025 **Project Focus:** Feral Cats

County(ies) Serviced: Montgomery County

Total Number of Cats Spayed: 42 Total Number of Cats Neutered: 53

Total Number of Surgeries: 95

Amount Received: \$6,674.00 Amount Spent: \$6,674.00 Amount Remaining (to be returned): \$0.00

Project Synopsis:

This project focused on areas in the target zip codes of 20901-20906 (Silver Spring). The purpose of the project was to spay and neuter as many cats as possible concentrated in visible colonies reported by caretakers or neighbors.

Project Description:

The project included mainly TNR in high-density areas with apartment complexes, town-house blocks, and homes on small lots, but also one semi-rural colony in an area with pastureland and outbuildings. The majority of the TNRs were done in multiple-cat subprojects of 9 to 18 cats.

Summary of Approach:

Choice of TNR sites was based primarily on requests by email or through our website. The vulnerability and size of the colony and the cooperation of the caretakers are factors that are weighted positively in selecting TNR sites.

Accomplishments:

95 surgeries, including subprojects with counts of 18, 14, and 16 cats done on this grant.

Lessons Learned:

1) The Dept. of Agriculture grant program is a massive boost to TNR in the State of Maryland. This year our group was the subject of an appreciative Proclamation by the County Council, and the sponsoring Councilmember specifically mentioned the Dept. of Agriculture grant. This is also important because in Montgomery County we are trying to get pro-TNR legislation passed, and the Dept. of Agriculture grant is great for credibility. 2) After the experience and judgment of the trappers, the factor most determining the success of TNR in any particular location is the commitment and trust of the caretakers. 3) Limited low-cost spay/neuter clinic capacity continues to be the main determinant of how many TNRs we can do per year, total, no matter the funding source.

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