



## Somerset County's 2025 T N R Program

Project #

25-10032

County: Somerset County

Number of Cats Spayed: 142

Number of Dogs Spayed:

Number of Cats Neutered: 160

Number of Dogs Neutered:

Amount Received: \$15,000

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

### Project Synopsis:

The FY 2025 TNR project was highly successful. We were granted \$15000 to spay and neuter 300 feral cats. The allocated funds allowed us to sterilize 302 cats. We completed this work within the first 7 months of the grant period. We hope to secure another grant for FY 2026 to sustain this important work.



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Spay and Neuter Grants Program



## **Project Description:**

Utilizing the MDA award grant funds provided and our human resources, we offered spay-neuter assistance to low-income residents and public areas for 300 feral cats. Specifically, by concentrating our efforts in 3 different zip codes: Deal Island 21821,, ECI Prison 21890, Public Housing Crisfield MD 21817, we were more effective. We propose to complete another 300 spay-neuter surgeries during the next six months remaining in this grant period using other grant funds. The entire purpose of our program is to reduce the possibility of a rabies outbreak, further reduce the homeless cat population, alleviate the prevailing animal suffering and unnecessary euthanasia it causes, and ultimately reduce the homeless cat population in Somerset and surrounding counties.

## **Summary of Approach:**

We used two trappers to move from area to area, but only after the cats in that area were sterilized first. This seems to be the best approach. We don't move on until the site or job is completed. We also learned to trap and hold some animals in pens until it's time for our clinic. We are also purchasing more new cat pods, devices to place at the end of traps to give trapped cats a place to hide and relieve some of the stress on the animals. We schedule 50 - 60 cats per month to try and keep up with demand and reduce the cat population as quickly as possible.

## **Accomplishments:**

Sterilizing another 300 cats and preventing more litters of new kittens in the targeted areas is a significant help for our program. While trapping and interacting with residents, we also learned of other colonies. After another spring, the situation is expected to deteriorate. Therefore, we are prioritizing these areas of the county once again. Thank you, MDA

## **Lessons Learned:**

Planning around major weather events is a critical factor in our TNR work. We have learned to trap animals in advance of bad weather and hold them in pens until it is time for our clinic. Upon receiving requests from our targeted area residents we now collaborate with the residents, training them and supplying them with traps to address their local situation. This new partnership is working well. Volunteer trappers are difficult to locate. Consequently, we are now advancing at an even more rapid pace. One of the biggest problem besides funding was finding volunteer trappers. Besides the concept above, we are offering some of our low-income volunteers a \$10 cat bonus. This is working well. We now believe we can go forward with purpose and significant accomplishment.

## **For More Information Contact:**

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