



Paws on the Ground for Cecil & Harford!

Project #

25-10046

County: Cecil County/Harford County

Number of Cats Spayed: 211

Number of Dogs Spayed:

Number of Cats Neutered: 173

Number of Dogs Neutered:

Amount Received: \$22,330

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

Project Synopsis:

Chesapeake Feline Association's "Feral Spay and Neuter – Save Lives" Project focused on feral colonies in targeted areas of Cecil County, as well as the spay and neuter of felines owned by low-income residents of Cecil and Harford Counties. The Project supported efforts to alter felines with a total of 385 spay and neuters for 2025.



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Project Description:

Chesapeake Feline Association (“CFA”) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer, no-kill feline rescue. CFA’s main goals for this Project were (i) to continue to reduce the feral cat overpopulation in Cecil and Harford Counties where there are many unsterilized felines; and (ii) to provide low-income residents of these counties with free spay and neuter services in order to ensure that owned cats did not also contribute to the feral, unsterilized population.

Summary of Approach:

CFA targeted feral colonies and started efforts to TNR them. We adopted out those cats that were able to be socialized through social media efforts, collaborations with Petco adoptions and with local businesses. In addition, we provided free spay/neuter services to low-income residents. CFA undertook efforts to engage partner clinics in order to continue to provide spay/neuter services for feral/TNR cats, as well as owned cats of low-income residents. We have fostered strong relationships with Brandywine Valley SPCA and Padfoot Mobile Veterinary Practice for weekly spay/neuter clinics and as our in-house veterinarian. By initiating an organized transport system to Brandywine Valley SPCA in New Castle, DE for surgeries, we were able to continue to get targeted feral colonies spayed and neutered. In addition, when a cat is brought in for spay/neuter, we ensure that it also receives all vaccinations, microchips and any necessary medical care at CFA’s own expense.

Accomplishments:

CFA is proud of our accomplishments for this cycle. We have continued to work in existing colonies, aid colony caretakers and identify where new colonies should be targeted. This year we surpassed our goal, preventing those cats from going on to produce more kittens and adding to the overpopulation problem. We also formed new relationships with local business to promote spay/neuter and adoption. CFA services the Cecil and Harford County region. The veterinary shortage impacts rural areas hard, so we are proud to do what can to meet the community’s needs with regard to spay/neuter services for feral/TNR cats as well as those owned by low-income residents. CFA cares about all of the cats that come into our care, so when a cat is brought in for spay/neuter, we ensure that it also receives all vaccinations and any needed medical care at our expense. We feel strongly about taking care of the medical needs of any feral cats before releasing them back into the community.

Lessons Learned:

Brandywine is 27 miles away and finding volunteers to transport the cats can be difficult. We sometimes have difficulty obtaining the needed documentation from our partners. However, we have learned to be flexible, persistent, resilient and to creatively solve any issues we may run across. To avoid having cancellations, we have learned to add lead time with our advertising. *We have corrections for the month of August. Brie was a no-show who was not removed from the list, and Tiger was recorded as a female when he was actually a male. The attached paperwork is correct.

For More Information Contact:

Julie Shiel

Organization Name and Address:

PO Box 743, 88 Spring Hill Lane

North East, Maryland 21901

Phone: 443-593-8924

Email: julieshiel01@gmail.com

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Spay and Neuter Grants Program

