



# Spay It Forward TNR Initiative

Project #  
17-206

County: **Montgomery**

Number of Cats Spayed: **285**  
Number of Cats Neutered: **267**

Number of Dogs Spayed:  
Number of Dogs Neutered:

Amount Received: **\$27,320**

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): **0**

## Project Synopsis:

For the past several years, Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being (MCPAW) has worked with area volunteers, colony caretakers, and veterinary clinics to trap, spay/neuter, vaccinate, ear tip, and microchip as many feral cats as possible. The goal of MCPAW's Spay It Forward program is to decrease the number of cats and kittens entering the sheltering system and to reduce the euthanasia rate. The momentum of this project has grown significantly, especially during the past year. In this project timeframe, October 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017, we were able to successfully TNR 552 cats and prevent a conservatively estimated 2,200 kitten births. We exceeded our projected number of 484, a 12% increase with the same budget.



## Project Description:

MCPAW is the 5013c nonprofit partner of Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC). MCPAW's primary mission is to provide resources and support to benefit the animals residing at the MCASAC. As part of our broader mission, we work to identify and influence the main reasons that animals end up in shelters and to promote positive relationships between people and animals in Montgomery County. Through special projects and programs, we strive to be a catalyst for education and change for the benefit of the animals and the residents of Montgomery County. The emphasis of this ongoing TNR project is to reduce the number of homeless cats coming into the shelter by preventing births of more cats.

By establishing relationships with county-wide volunteers who work with cat colony caretakers to trap feral cats, MCPAW has been able to offer free spay/neuter and return (TNR) services to the community. Free rabies vaccines, ear tipping, and MCPAW-funded microchips have also been made available to these cats. Excluded from the project are additional surgeries or treatments.

MCPAW has partnered with several clinics to provide negotiated prices for spay/neuter, vaccines, and microchipping. Spay Now Animal Surgery Clinic in Laurel, Maryland, Metro Ferals Clinic in Eldersburg, Maryland, and Diamond Veterinary Hospital in Gaithersburg, Maryland are the primary facilities we use.



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM**



**Summary of Approach:**

MCPAW selected projects based on need, size, and scope, and our ability to bring the appropriate resources to the project. Before committing to a project, we had a discussion with the property owner or authorized representative to be sure the requisite permission to TNR was granted. We also ensured that a dedicated and competent colony manager was secured. With the assistance of volunteer trappers and transporters, we scheduled and completed the TNR. We committed to trapping 100% of the cats in each colony to manage growth and ensure a “no kitten zone.” We also developed relationships with partners who will help deliver quality of life to the cats in the colonies. We used social media, our website, and our extensive email list to share our successes while maintaining the confidentiality of the colony locations and caretakers.

**Accomplishments:**

The Spay It Forward program in 2017 was even more successful than the previous two years, showing that we have learned and grown a great deal, and more importantly, made a name for the program within the community. We TNR'd 552 cats in about 70 locations between October 1, 2016 and December 31, 2017, an increase of 172 cats over last year and exceeding our projections by 12%. We were able to provide more cat surgeries by negotiating lower prices, and through word of mouth were able to learn of more colonies. The colonies were located in Bethesda, Boyds, Burtonsville, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Clarksburg, Damascus, Derwood, Dickerson, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Kensington, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, Olney, Poolesville, Potomac, Rockville, Silver Spring, Spencerville, and Takoma Park. At each location, we obtained the required signed property permission forms, with each colony assured to have a reliable caretaker. All cats were ear tipped, vaccinated against rabies, and microchipped. MCPAW self-funds the microchips. Because of these efforts, we estimate to have prevented over 2,200 kittens from being born, thus reducing the intake to MCASAC and euthanasia rates of cats at MCASAC. This is a highly respected program among the community cat caretakers, trappers, and others who care about the cats. The community depends on us. MCPAW is very pleased and proud of our accomplishments.

**Lessons Learned:**

Just as in previous years, MCPAW is grateful for the hardworking volunteers who work with us and care so much about the cats. We could not do this without them. Disappointingly, however, since the shelter does not collect data by zip code, it is difficult to statistically prove our hard work. This does not mean that many, many kitten births were not prevented and that our program was not highly successful. We will be working more closely with the shelter to collect detailed records that support our work.

**Attachments:**

Spreadsheet of TNR'd Cats  
Change of Scope

**For More Information Contact:****Name:**

Shaughness, Chris

**Organization Name and Address:**

MCPAW  
7315 Muncaster Mill Road  
Derwood. MD 20855

**Email:** [chriss@mcpaw.org](mailto:chriss@mcpaw.org)



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**SPAY AND NEUTER GRANTS PROGRAM**

