



Fix Somerset county

Project #
19-404

County: Somerset

Number of Cats Spayed: 332
Number of Cats Neutered: 257

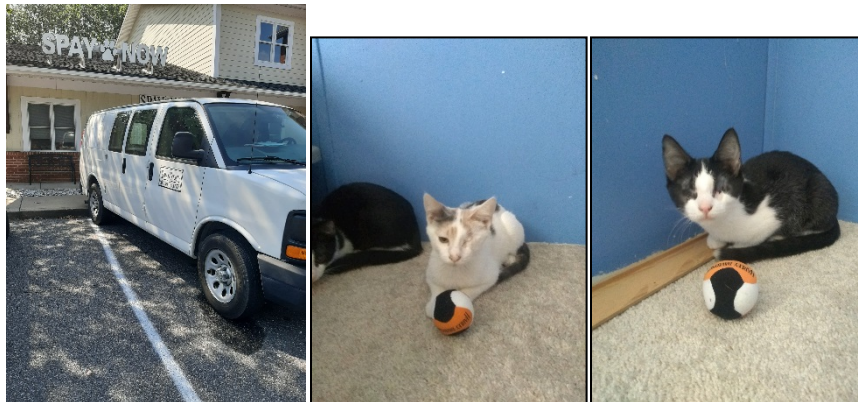
Number of Dogs Spayed:
Number of Dogs Neutered:

Amount Received: 30,500

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): 0

Project Synopsis:

This very effective project targeted low income residents in Crisfield, Marion Station, Princess Anne, Westover, Deal Island and Smith Island. Pet owners are offered free Spay Neuter with Rabies Vaccines for their pet cats. Our mission is to reduce the Homeless Cat population In Somerset County. Once again this year we see a significant reduction in new born kittens. The residents trust and appreciate the program and its working



Project Description:

Provides free sterilizations and rabies vaccinations for indoor-owned and outdoor community cats for poor and low income residents of Somerset County. The clinics are conducted by our all-volunteer personnel and by using a highly reputable animal hospital

Summary of Approach:

We use newspaper adds, place posters in local stores and use word of mouth to spread the word about this excellent joint program. We have three established pickup locations and times for our twice monthly sterilization clinics. Many people borrow our carriers to bring their pet cats to us at our pick up points where we briefly check the cats health and make sure it has not eaten in the past 10 hours, mark the carrier with the owners name. Next we then transport the cats to our partner sterilization clinic at stevensville, MD and return to the 3 pick up points usally 12 hours later. In some situations we used a local clinic to sterlize animals that are hard for owners to get into carriers or viewed as preganent or needed other vet services such as eye removal or limb amputation and or fall they between our bi weekly clinics.

Accomplishments:

We sterilized 589 cats this past year well above our grants quota of 500 cats. This valuable program helped many low income families with their pet sterilization problems, they could not pay 300-400 dollars to S&N their



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pets. We have received accolades from many people and from county officials about our partnership with the MDA & professional low cost spay neuter clinics. We can see a difference in the cat population in the county; less dead cats on the road, less emergency rescue calls, less nuisance complaints, and more importantly less emergency kittens to rescue this year. Less cats coming to us at our rescue facility. During Past years we averaged between 600-1200 cats sterilized each year for the past 8 years. Since we don't euthanize cats our best indicator of success is judging the number of Kittens rescued each year. 2016; 328 rescued, 2017; 160 rescued, 2018; 75 rescued; 2019; 45 rescued. As you can see these important numbers are an indicator that our S&N program is working. We have worked very to Sterilize thousands of cats to get these numbers to drop dramatically each year. Providing the Spay Neuter Program continues we will prevail and finish the job.

Lessons Learned:

There is more work yet to be done. Volunteers wear out fast by going on long day trips to our low cost clinics, so I am now alternating my assistant on these trips. We do not have a professional grant writer nor can we afford one. We are the second poorest county in the state in many ways. We do not have a county shelter, only a small rescue facility. I will be soliciting help from other county rescues for help and advice with grant writing. We are definitely making a difference now and county residents are becoming more cooperative and educated about Spay/Neuter. We definitely need to continue the program if the MD government still wants to reduce the homeless cat population and we are doing just that. We need more funding to keep it ongoing. We have a great program in place with momentum and proven progress. The Humane Society is the only active group in the county targeting cats for spay/ neuter, operating over the entire county area including Smith Island and the borders of two other adjacent counties. We worked very hard to sterilize between 600-1200 cats a year to reduce the number of Homeless cats in the county you can see by the significant reduction in kittens that needed to be rescued each year we are highly successful.

Attachments:

Spay Neuter Documents.

For More Information Contact:

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Organization Name and Address:

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