



# Spay and Neuter Sunshine's Feral Friends

Project #  
19-437

County: Anne Arundel, Baltimore

|                          |    |                          |   |
|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|---|
| Number of Cats Spayed:   | 96 | Number of Dogs Spayed:   | 0 |
| Number of Cats Neutered: | 84 | Number of Dogs Neutered: | 0 |

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Amount Received: \$9104.96 | Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00 |
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### Project Synopsis:

This project funded no-cost surgeries and rabies vaccinations for feral cats living in five colonies in or near low-income neighborhoods in Jessup, Curtis Bay, and Odenton MD. We proposed to spay or neuter 175 feral cats during the year.



### Project Description:

Sunshine's Friends Cat and Dog Rescue ([www.sunshinesfriends.org](http://www.sunshinesfriends.org)) has been a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity since 2014 operating within 20 miles of our main location in Jessup, MD. The area is a mix of light industry, warehouses, and residential neighborhoods, and the area along the US Route 1 corridor and southern Baltimore Beltway has a higher than average number of low-income residents who need help.

This project, which ran from September 2018 to July 2019, sought to spay/neuter 175 feral cats living in five specific colonies. Through targeted, focused TNR projects, we worked to bring the problem sites under control and then maintain them with caregiver monitoring and follow-up. The sites we chose can be divided into two types: apartment complexes with low-income residents, or industrial sites where cat colonies have formed.

The project funded the cost of the spay/neuter surgeries and rabies vaccines for the feral cats and included a transportation component to bring the animals from the trapping sites to our partner vets' clinics.

### Summary of Approach:

We started with outreach to caregivers and property managers to determine the scope of the problem and to encourage patience. We planned to tackle one site at a time and after it was completed to move on to the next. Our trapping coordinator lined up volunteer trappers, equipment, and transportation while one of our directors scheduled veterinary clinics to ensure they could handle as many as 15 cats on a trapping day. We established a rhythm of trapping, neutering, returning two times per week in order to optimize resources and keep a regular schedule.

When we trapped, any cats with eartips indicating they had already been spayed/neutered were released if in good health; all others were taken to our vet the next morning. Following surgery, the cats recuperated and were



evaluated for potential rehoming through adoption. Cats that were truly feral were returned to the site and reintegrated with the colony. We trapped at each site until we reached 100% and then continued our outreach activities for follow-up monitoring to catch any stragglers or newcomers.

We partnered with three local spay/neuter vet clinics to provide services through an in-kind contribution in the form of substantially discounted rates. Our organization also contributed the costs of additional medical care and flea treatment not covered by grant monies.

**Accomplishments:**

In just 9 months of the planned one-year project, we managed to spay/neuter 180 feral cats and bring the five targeted colonies under control. Once the grant money was expended, we continued to fund the last few cats at the colonies to ensure each was 100% complete. We provided additional treatment and/or surgery to any cat that needed it and cared for them until fully recovered.

**Lessons Learned:**

We increased the number of feral cats that we spayed/neutered by about 40% over last year's projects. We increased our boots-on-the-ground outreach activities, particularly in Curtis Bay where poverty is high and large numbers of cats are abandoned and roam free. We also work in that area meeting the needs of pet owners for spay/neuter while also supplying pet food and paying for emergency surgeries for extreme cases. This has allowed us to gather valuable information on feral cats that are in the neighborhood, allowing us to trap more cats and to rehome many of them.

**Attachments:**

List of feral cats altered

**For More Information Contact:**

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