



# Spay/Neuter & Vaccinate Every Cat

Project #

22-7002

County: Anne Arundel County

Number of Cats Spayed: 524

Number of Dogs Spayed:

Number of Cats Neutered: 410

Number of Dogs Neutered:

Amount Received: \$54,855

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00

## Project Synopsis:

SAVECats, a project of Rude Ranch Animal Rescue and Spay Spa & Neuter Nook, officially launched in July, 2018 following the passage of Anne Arundel County Bill 96-17. Since inception, SAVECats has performed over 5000 spay/neuter surgeries of Anne Arundel community cats thanks to the generous support of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Spay and Neuter Grants Program. This project funding period represents the completion of the fifth full year of funding and has been instrumental in reducing the overall euthanasia rate at Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control. This project provided spay/neuter and rabies vaccinations for 900 cats from 2022 into 2023.



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## **Project Description:**

The mission of the SAVECats program is to significantly, humanely and permanently reduce the community and feral cat population in Anne Arundel County, MD while saving their lives and improving their quality of life. This SAVECats project was accomplished through community partnerships with volunteers, clinic staff, elected officials, stakeholders, community leaders, and the general public to identify geographic areas in need of TNR assistance, and providing advocacy, financial support, training and veterinary care (TNR) where needed. This project proposed to spay/neuter and vaccinate 900 feral cats in Anne Arundel County.

## **Summary of Approach:**

The SAVECats project used an aggressive, targeted campaign to spay/neuter feral, stray and community cats living on farms, shopping centers and business parks, apartment complexes, alleys and on individual and family properties of Anne Arundel County. Groups or colonies of cats in these areas tend to have several caretakers, but no one to make sure the cats are altered. Additionally, the caretakers cannot afford the costs to have the cats spayed or neutered and 1 or 2 cats quickly becomes 10 - 15. This project will use documented TNR best practices, with caretakers contacting us via email, phone or text to arrange appointments; scheduling days or periods for trapping; transportation by staff to our clinic; examinations of cats by licensed vet followed by spay or neuter surgery; return to the location where the colony or caretaker resides. Each SAVECats cat is microchipped using microchips provided by Rude Ranch Animal Rescue so that we may have a record of the animal.

## **Accomplishments:**

Here is list of several accomplishments related to 2022-2023: Passed 5,000 community cats from Anne Arundel County being spayed/neutered/vaccinated; partnered with numerous business owners and apartment complexes to reduce cat nuisance to community; strengthened relationships with feral cat-friendly rescues including Laurel Cats, Humane Rescue Alliance, A Cat's Life Rescue, Loudon Cats, Montgomery County Community Cat Coalition, Bowie CLAW, and many more; worked closely with several of these partners and volunteer trappers to expand SAVECats into Prince George's County.



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## Lessons Learned:

Since we eliminated our Friday clinic days and every other Saturday clinic day, we realized that 900 cats was just a good number of animals for us to help in a calendar year. Still we realize that we did not complete the proposed number of cats in the 2022 calendar year because we started this project at the end of March 2022. We still need to increase surgical output to get back on the calendar cycle. We have seen it is increasingly challenging to get AACo cats in, and have pivoted in the current grant cycle to propose to help PG county community cats.

## For More Information Contact:

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