



# Jessup Community Cat Colonies

Project #  
16-125

County: Anne Arundel; Howard

Number of Cats Spayed:	50	Number of Dogs Spayed:	0
Number of Cats Neutered:	68	Number of Dogs Neutered:	0

Amount Received: \$7,106.40	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): 0.00
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### Project Synopsis:

This project targeted colonies of community cats living in the US Route 1 corridor in Jessup, MD which straddles the Anne Arundel/ Howard county line. The project proposed to trap, spay/neuter, vaccinate and return about 112 cats in six known colonies at five sites in the area.



### Project Description:

Sunshine's Friends Cat Rescue and Sanctuary ([www.sunshinescatrescue.org](http://www.sunshinescatrescue.org)) is a 510(c)(3) non-profit charity located in Jessup, MD. The area is a mix of light industry, warehouses, and residential neighborhoods. This project, which ran from October 2015 to September 2016, sought to reduce the intake and euthanasia rates at two county animal shelters by trapping, spaying/neutering and vaccinating 112 or more cats by targeting six known colonies at five sites within the Jessup area. Two colonies are within a huge complex of food, produce, and seafood warehouses where there are large populations of unaltered community cats, including some kittens that were rehomed. The other four sites are smaller known colonies in and around industrial sites where we achieved a 100% TNR rate and where the cats have existing caregivers. We partnered with a veterinary clinic to spay/neuter, vaccinate and ear-tip these cats at a low cost.

A project coordinator managed our efforts, engaged with the community and colony/site managers and caregivers, and lead the educational outreach portions of the project. Trained staff oversaw the TNR process, cat evaluation, and placement efforts as well as training/advising colony caretakers. We used the local community association for outreach support and our partner vet provided in-kind contributions in the form of substantially discounted TNR services. Our organization also contributed the cost of other vaccines and medical care such as amputation and wound care not covered by grant monies. In addition to reducing intake/euthanasia rates at countt shelters, the project also reduced the risk of rabies spread, and impacted the cat over-population in the area. It also relieved the burden on the local caretakers and reduced problematic behavior frequently displayed by unaltered cats.



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**Summary of Approach:**

Many of the community cat colonies were already being managed by caregivers who had food resources, but needed financial help with spaying/neutering. The other colonies sites had had some sporadic TNR efforts in the past, but needed a dedicated program to achieve 100% of the cats. When the project began, we reached out to the site owners/managers and caregivers to explain the project and enlist their aid in developing intelligence on the cat populations.

**Accomplishments:**

At the three managed sites we trapped and spayed/neutered all of the cats that the caregivers told us to expect and achieved 100% success. These sites are being monitored by the caregivers for new arrivals and are no longer in critical need. At the other three sites, we trapped, spayed/neutered and vaccinated more than our projected goals because we initially just estimated their numbers at the beginning of the project, but found more cats as we worked there. At Site 2 (Elementary School), we trapped all 13 cats, exceeding our initial estimate of 10; we are now merely monitoring for changes at the site. At Site 1 (Maryland Food Center Authority), we trapped 63 cats in two major sub-sites, exceeding our goals, but not yet reaching 100% of the cat population. We will continue to work on this site next year until we have trapped every cat that needs to be altered.

We also covered medical costs, tests, and flea treatment for cats from our own operating budget. We also covered wound treatments, limb amputations, cancerous mass removal, and eye enucleations in order to give the cats a good quality of life following TNR. These cats were all fully recovered and rehomed in some cases. We stretched program dollars by transporting multiple cats to and from the vet in a single vehicle whenever possible.

**Lessons Learned:**

We targetted six colonies in the area, and in so doing often had to bounce from one to another when there were pregnant females, injured cats, or kittens at a site. This split our focus somewhat. In th 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, we learned this lesson and focussed on completing a site and then moving to the next.

One site is very large with plenty of places for the cats to seek shelter and hide. We established feeding stations and a regular feeding time, got them used to a routine, and then trapped several cats in the feeding area. We had to reestablish the normal pattern before we could begin another round of trapping because the cats were becoming trap-shy.

**Attachments:**

SFCRS-15Q4-status-feralcats.pdf

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