



# Salisbury TNVR

Project #  
19-430

County: Wicomico County

Number of Cats Spayed:	376	Number of Dogs Spayed:	0
Number of Cats Neutered:	357	Number of Dogs Neutered:	0

Amount Received: \$29,425.00	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00
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### Project Synopsis:

This project targeted pre-identified colonies for free TNVR in Salisbury zip codes 21801 and 21804. In total 733 cats were trapped, sterilized, and vaccinated. ALL cats within each colony were TNVR'd in order to ensure zero percent colony growth.



### Project Description:

Forgotten Cats, Inc., operating as a 501c3 since 2004, works to prevent the birth and suffering of unwanted kittens by controlling the free roaming cat population through TNVR. We accomplish this mission by providing free or low-cost sterilization for caregivers of homeless cats in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Our specific services involve working with caregivers to identify ALL cats in a colony, after which we trap, transport, sterilize, recuperate, and return feral cats to caregivers. Services are provided at one of our three clinics. Friendly cats and kittens under 12 weeks old are held and placed in one of our eleven off-site adoption centers. Since our inception, we have sterilized close to 130,000 cats and placed over 13,000 into loving forever homes.

In an effort to reduce intake & euthanasia at the Humane Society of Wicomico County, we conducted targeted TNVR of pre-identified colonies in Salisbury zip codes 21801 & 21804. The project was started on October 1, 2018 and it was completed on August 29, 2019. These zip codes were targeted because they were reported as the areas of highest intake and euthanasia for the Humane Society of Wicomico County. Based on PetSmart Charities free-roaming cat formula, we estimated there to be 4,700 free roaming cats in the target area. Throughout the project, we used the only effective TNVR protocol which involves closely working with the colony caregiver in order to trap 100% of the cats residing in the colony so that there is zero percent colony growth. In addition to reducing intake & euthanasia, this project also aimed to reduce the free roaming cat population, reduce the risk of rabies spread, and reduce complaint calls to animal control.



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We are pleased to report that from our project start date to September 24th, 2019 there has been an 8% decrease in intake and euthanasia at the Humane Society of Wicomico County. While this project only targeted two zip codes in the entire county, it made a great impact and showcases the importance and impact that TNVR can have in a community. When done on a larger scale in Wicomico County, we would expect the intake & euthanasia to decrease even further.

### **Summary of Approach:**

During the application process, we pre-identified 25 colonies we wished to target with the MDA funding. The pre-identified colonies combined with the very recent completion of a large targeted PetSmart Charities TNVR project in Wicomico County, we were able to begin this project with ease. Already having an infrastructure in place with our resources, employees, and volunteers allowed us a quick and easy start. Due to already having our colonies identified, very little advertising and marketing was done for this project. In October our project received media coverage through an article published by Alley Cat Allies and we made a special announcement on our social media accounts regarding the project made possible by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

October 2018-August 2019: Working closely with colony caregivers, our trapper aimed to TNVR at least one colony every 2 weeks. In order to stabilize each colony, we continuously trapped until ALL cats were caught. All cats were transported to one of our facilities where they were sterilized, vaccinated (Rabies & FVRCP), received flea & parasite treatment, ear-tipped, and provided additional medical treatment if required. Feral cats were given time to recuperate before they were released to their caregiver. At the time of release, our trapper provided the caregiver with all medical records and provided education on proper colony management moving forward (winter shelters, feeding, etc.). Friendly cats and kittens under 12 weeks of age were held and placed for adoption.

### **Accomplishments:**

- 1.) Reduced shelter intake and euthanasia by 8% at the Humane Society of Wicomico County.
- 2.) TNVR'd 733 free roaming cats residing in Salisbury zip codes 21801 and 21804.
- 3.) We estimate this project prevented the birth of roughly 1800 kittens that would have otherwise been born.

### **Lessons Learned:**

- 1.) Working on large colonies that were within highly populated areas (trailer parks, town home communities, etc.), we had to focus on communication and education to ensure that ALL colony cats received TNVR services and that everyone understood the importance of spay/neuter.
- 2.) There were quite a few Salisbury cats that required extensive medical care that went beyond the funding of the grant. Through a variety of fundraisers, we were able to cover the additional medical expenses.

### **Attachments:**

-List of altered cats

### **For More Information Contact:**

#### **Name:**

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#### **Organization Name and Address:**

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