



Feral Cat Project

Project #

21-606

County: Anne Arundel

Number of Cats Spayed: 608

Number of Dogs Spayed: 0

Number of Cats Neutered: 597

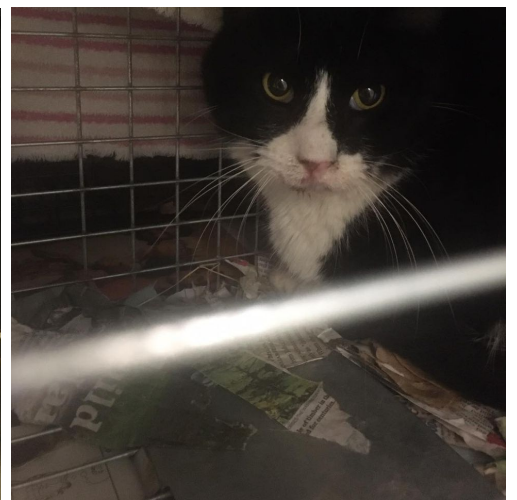
Number of Dogs Neutered: 0

Amount Received: \$62,700.00

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

Project Synopsis:

The SAVECats project - or Spay/Neuter and Vaccinate Every Cat - officially launched in July, 2018 following the passage of Anne Arundel County Bill 96-17. Since inception, SAVECats has performed over 4000 spay/neuter surgeries 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 fourth 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 up to 1200 cats from 2021 into 2022.



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



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 1200 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 2021-2022: Passed 4,000 community cats from Anne Arundel County being spayed/neutered/vaccinated; received citation from county executive for our work; partnered with numerous business owners and apartment complexes to reduce cat nuisance to community; relocated feral colony to barn cat program in Eastern Maryland; 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; received first ever grant support from The Summerlee Foundation to expand SAVECats into Prince George's County.



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program



Lessons Learned:

We discovered that (1) we did not allocate enough time to complete the proposed number of cats in the 2021 calendar year - thus meaning that we need to have fewer cats per calendar year; (2) that we need to plan better for our staffing needs - we had 9 people leave over a 2 month period in the middle of the grant, thus causing us to reduce surgical output; (3) that creating special days for feral cat surgeries (Fridays or Saturdays when we are not normally opened) helped us finish faster than we would have if we had not had those days available.

For More Information Contact:

Erik D. Andrulis

Organization Name and Address:

3200 Ivy Way

Harwood, Maryland 20776

Phone: 443-607-6496

Email: erik@ruderanch.org



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Spay and Neuter Grants Program

