



Bowie Citizens for Animal Welfare (Bowie CLAW) "Community Cat Initiative Year 2" Final Report

Project #
FY19-420 (MDA
1938)

County: Prince George's

Number of Cats Spayed:	97	Number of Dogs Spayed:	
Number of Cats Neutered:	91	Number of Dogs Neutered:	

Amount Received: \$9,468.96
Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00

Project Synopsis:

Our assigned goal for this year's MDA Spay and Neuter Program was 120 cats to be sterilized and returned to their outdoor homes. The number of cats for which we performed TNR was, in fact, 188 - achieving 157% of our assigned target.



Project Description:

Our project's goal was to reduce the number of feral cats in Bowie, the fifth largest city in Maryland and the largest in Prince George's County. With Bowie's population of 58,025, using one pet estimator method, there may be as many as 3,800 unowned cats in our City. There are a great many more community cats in the surrounding areas.

Previously, the Bowie area was served by the efforts of committed volunteers whose efforts to help control the community cat population were significant. These volunteers worked solo or in pairs, on their own time, often paying for veterinarian services out of their personal funds. These TNR specialists have now joined forces with Bowie CLAW in continuing their work under this grant. Until 2017, the Bowie area had not benefited from this type of concerted initiative, and we are pleased with the progress we have made.

Summary of Approach:

We submitted several target areas with our application, and we have worked in all of those places. Nonetheless, most of our efforts have been in response to needs and requests that have come by word-of-mouth, inquiries on the Bowie CLAW website, Facebook contacts, the NextDoor community website, and referrals from Bowie Animal Control and Spay Spa and Neuter Nook.

We have employed best practice methods throughout all our work. Our trappers are experienced and professional, and they ensure that trapped cats are handled with care and compassion. When cats have had medical needs beyond the scope of grant funds, we have paid for those services out of Bowie CLAW's funds.

Accomplishments:

As indicated, we surpassed our assigned target, used all MDA funds allocated to us, and supplemented the initiative with funds raised elsewhere by Bowie CLAW. The impact of 433 Bowie-area cats no longer proliferating is a big plus for Prince George's County and the Animal Services Facility (245 cats in the 2017-18 MDA grant year and 188 in the current reporting period).

We held a very successful TNR workshop that taught best-of-practice methods to a half dozen new volunteers, several of whom have become successful trappers. A second workshop on building shelters for community cats will occur shortly.

We continue to enjoy a highly positive relationship with Bowie Animal Control and have been able to use the holding facility at City Hall for the housing and socialization of several dozen kittens, all of which have been placed for adoption. Adding to cost effectiveness, spay and neuter services for those kittens has typically been paid by other rescue organizations.

Lessons Learned:

Following up on our comments about how we discovered needs and locations of cat colonies, we are increasingly convinced that old-fashioned door-knocking and community canvassing is being replaced by outreach and contacts through social media and other online sources. We did no "advertising" of our project this year but have consistently had a waiting list of referrals and requests for help.

We are extremely grateful to the Maryland Spay and Neuter Grants Program for allowing Bowie CLAW to participate. Our TNR efforts over the past two years have likely reached at least 10% of Bowie's feral cats, making a significant dent in the problem.

The MDA review committee did not fund our application for 2019-20. Nonetheless, we are passionate about this cause and determined to continue for as long as we can with our own organizational funds and with grants from the On-Shore Foundation, the Crescent Cities Foundation, the Prince George's County Council, and other pending grant applications. We are looking forward to applying for an MDA grant in the next funding cycle.

Attachments:

Our "cat list" is attached.

For More Information Contact:

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