



Targeted TNR - Route 40 Corridor

Project #
20-539

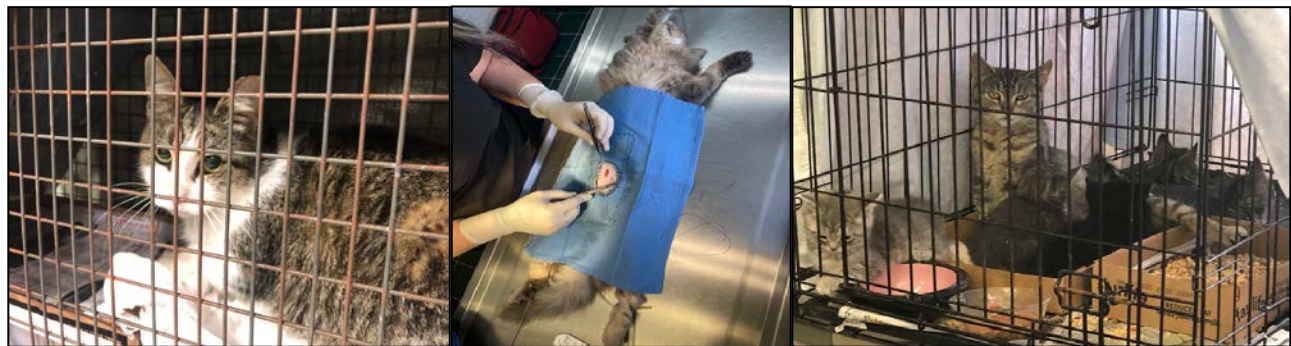
County: Harford

Number of Cats Spayed:	203	Number of Dogs Spayed:	N/A
Number of Cats Neutered:	177	Number of Dogs Neutered:	N/A

Amount Received: \$12,500	Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0
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Project Synopsis:

This project targeted community cat colonies along the Route 40 corridor in Harford County, from Joppa (ZIP code 21085) to Havre de Grace (21078) with the goal of altering 250 cats.



Project Description:

Best Friends in Harford County is an all-volunteer non-profit organization focused primarily on TNR in order to curb the overpopulation of roaming cats. The Route 40 corridor in Harford is a highly populated and fairly commercial area with a large number of known cat colonies. Our goal was to target several existing colony sites, trap and spay/neuter 100% of the population, and locate adjacent colonies for similar efforts. We hoped to successfully TNR at least 250 cats during the project period, to reduce the municipal shelter's feral intake by at least half that number of cats, and to reach new community caretakers as well as rescuers and pet owners while in the field.

Summary of Approach:

We began in October 2019 by reaching to caretakers, trappers, and partners in the target area. Before the Covid stop action, we were able to recruit and train six new trappers for the project, and we met with the district councilman in February to explain the project and garner his support to promote the project to his constituents. Planned public events and training sessions were cancelled beginning in March, so we focused instead on increasing TNR outreach through social media and word-of-mouth. We created and printed a rack card with simple graphics explaining our TNR process and posted copies at the municipal shelter and partner clinics. When the shelter reduced their operations, we received referrals to colony sites from them and from Harford's Animal Control Office. Following safety protocols, we managed to continue TNR efforts during the summer and fall months using clinics still available to us.

Accomplishments:

By using primarily our lowest-cost partner, whose facility stayed open to us, we were able to exceed the number of spay and neuter surgeries projected by 50%, from 250 to 380 total. We trapped several feral



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females with their nursing kittens, offspring that we were ultimately able to socialize, neuter, vaccinate, and place into adoption while the mothers were TNR'd. We also reached more pet owners needing free or low-cost assistance with their cats, keeping more from becoming part of the roaming cat population when regular veterinary appointments were (as they still are in our county) difficult to schedule.

Lessons Learned:

The advent of Covid restrictions showed us the importance of diligently following safety protocols and forming contingency plans. When two of our large surgical partners in Baltimore closed their doors, we were able to ramp up numbers at the clinics that stayed operational. We made sure to fill all available slots at clinics and added, through a CoS, other providers that allowed us spaces. This improvising was important because with most people staying at home for longer periods, TNR calls increased as residents noticed roaming cats and litters of kittens in their neighborhoods.

Attachments:

Targeted area TNR lists for 5 quarters

For More Information Contact:

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