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**Tip Me Frederick Awarded \$24,000 Grant
from Maryland Department of Agriculture**

***Support from State Spay-Neuter Grant Program will help Tip Me Frederick continue its
lifesaving work for community cats***

(Frederick, MD, September 12, 2016) – Tip Me Frederick (TMF) is delighted to announce the award of a second grant from the [Maryland Department of Agriculture](http://www.maryland.gov/agriculture) (MDA) to help residents in the Brunswick region of Frederick County humanely manage the area's community cats. The MDA program, now in its third year, is designed to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs euthanized in shelters by providing competitive grants to local governments and animal welfare organizations that provide spay and neuter services, with an emphasis on low income communities and populations. TMF received a 2015 grant to spay and neuter 600 cats in northern Frederick County; as of August 2016, over 450 cats have been sterilized with completion estimated in November 2016.

“Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) is a humane alternative to the ‘trap and kill’ policies that historically have been used to address the overpopulation of stray and feral/semi-feral cats,” explains TMF founder and president, Barbara Wratten. Trap and kill, however, has been repeatedly proven ineffective, cost-prohibitive, and is considered inhumane by many citizens. In contrast, TNR methods involve the capture of free-roaming cats to sterilize, vaccinate, and then return them to their ‘outdoor homes’ to live out their natural lives without reproducing. It is the widely accepted, humane method of controlling the number of free-roaming cats.

TMF is very grateful to receive this second award. “This grant will allow us to continue our efforts to provide free sterilization and vaccination services to our community cat caregivers,” says Wratten. “In collaboration with our grant partner, Spa Spay and Neuter Nook (<http://www.spayspa.org>), Davidsonville, MD, we will perform 500 free spay/neuter surgeries over the next 12 months.” Since it was established in 2013, TMF has sterilized over 2,000 cats from across Frederick County.

About Tip Me Frederick

Tip Me Frederick (TMF) (www.tipmefrederick.org) is the only all-volunteer, non-profit dedicated Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM) resource serving Frederick County, MD and surrounding areas. TMF helps people who care about feral cats by providing them with the experience, expertise, and access to services to help them humanely manage cat colonies in their neighborhoods and on their properties. TMF's services include: education and training in best practices for managing feral cats; loaning traps and assisting with trapping when needed; and, providing access to low-cost or no-cost spay/neuter and vaccination services. TMF also works closely with Frederick County Animal Control (FCAC) to return feral cats to their colonies or place them into new colonies or safe barn homes. Become a fan of Tip Me Frederick on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TipMeFrederick>

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