



Feral cats are a problem in many communities on Prince Edward Island. The Cat Action Team recently finished a sweep of every feral feline they could find in O'Leary in an attempt to spay and neuter as many as possible. SUBMITTED

Cat Action Team declares tentative victory in O'Leary

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O'LEARY — The Cat Action Team is declaring a victory of sorts in its battle against P.E.I.'s feral feline population.

The NGO is reporting that nearly 100 per cent of known feral cats in O'Leary have been successfully spayed or neutered.

Controlling the feral cat population is one of the main reasons Cat Action Team was created, so it's rewarding to know that at least part of the mission has been accomplished, said Krista Adams, an action team volunteer who works in Prince County.

"It feels great that we're actually helping," said Adams.

"Around here we did get it cleaned up quite a bit. Every day I'm still getting phone calls, but we kind of put a big dent in O'Leary in getting them spayed or neutered," she said.

Last fall, Cat Action Team received a grant of \$19,800 from PetSmart Charities of Canada to augment its existing spay and



A feral cat sits in a humane trap. SUBMITTED

neuter program. They had a year to spend the money, said Adams, but they did it in less than six months.

Thanks to the work of the volunteers more than 220 cats were caught, spayed and neutered, in the O'Leary area over the last few months.

The problem has not been completely eliminated, she added, and the spring will undoubtedly see new kitten litters being born — but with most of the adult cats now fixed, the population should stabilize for the next couple of years.

But while O'Leary is now in good shape other communities still have a cat problem.

"We've kind of got the situation here (O'Leary) under control. But over in Tignish and places like that there still is a problem," said Adams, adding that Alberton is in the same situation.

Pat Srebrnik, who is also a volunteer with Cat Action Team, said the group is now in the process of applying for another PetSmart grant; this time for \$25,000.

That money, if it's approved, will go towards trapping, spaying and neutering an additional 250 cats in those two communities, said Srebrnik.