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Zimmer Feline Foundation

# Annual Program Update for Service Area Veterinary Clinics

January 15, 2015

## 2,448 Low-Income Cats Are Fixed or “Repaired” in 2014



We’re pleased to announce that 2014 was our best year ever in New Mexico with a total of 2,448 cats serviced — up from 1,453 in 2013.

Through the generous work of 27 veterinary clinics in 10 counties our **Low-Income Voucher Program** fixed 1,736 pet cats for about 1,200 low-income families and individuals.

In addition our new **Community Cat Program** (for non-profits) sterilized another 676 cats that may not have been reached through our voucher program — including feral cats and pet cats living outside our areas.



If you are a participating clinic, thank you. To reach our target demographic it’s as important the work be done locally as it is for it to be free. If you’d like to be a participating clinic and can work within our pricing (see reverse page) please call us.

Our new **Acute Care Program** helped 36 cats receive treatment for a variety of problems — infections, bite wounds, broken bones, birthing difficulties — and even the removal of a fish hook from a curious cat’s mouth!

We often hear “*If you can’t afford to get your cat fixed you shouldn’t have one.*” We simply don’t believe that’s

true. Many people can provide good loving homes for their cats yet lack the money to pay for sterilization or an occasional veterinary emergency.

And often these are the same people who benefit most from the unconditional love a cat can give them.

In a culture that kills thousands on thousands of companion cats each year for lack of homes — we think helping these cats stay in their original homes is a very worthwhile pursuit.

Don’t you?

*For complete program information, visit our web site.*



## Get To Know Our Caregivers

We provide help to cats living below the veterinary radar — *not* because their caregivers don’t love them — but simply because they can’t afford the cost.

It’s a diverse group: college students, young parents, the un- or underemployed, and disabled or elderly persons living on fixed incomes.

Those with jobs work mostly in service industries: housekeepers, daycare workers, home-health caregivers, retail and restaurant staff — and even starving artists, day laborers and ranch hands.

Their homes crisscross north and central New Mexico: They live in Albuquerque apartments, various Pueblos,

on the Taos Mesa and in Las Vegas mobile home parks. Some live in student housing while others live in federally-subsidized housing. And many live in areas so rural they lack a home address.

But — as varied as our caregivers are — they all share one common bond: their love of cats.



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**Want to lower shelter euthanasia rates and stem the growth of feral cat colonies all in one move?**

Join our low-income pet cat assistance programs. The cats in low-income homes rarely come from shelters (who fix cats before adoption) but are rescued outdoors or passed from one home to the next still intact.

Without money for prompt sterilization, these cats often end up relinquished to shelters or abandoned outdoors when their intact behaviors (yowling, spraying and kitting) become too much for their caregivers to handle.

*By simply fixing these cats we help them stay in their homes — keeping them out of shelters and off the streets. What a great way to do community service!*

## 2015 Veterinary Clinic Pricing Guidelines

### Spay/Neuter Packages

**Spay/neuter vouchers** cover the packages below for the cat and caregiver specified on them. The *Price Range* shows the high-and-low billings we received during 2014 from our participating clinics. Since this is a **free** spay/neuter program we ask that clinics accept our voucher as full payment for the covered work and not charge the caregiver a co-pay. Additional services may be offered (but not required) as a condition to redeem our voucher.

Voucher Package Descriptions	Price Range
<p><b>Cat Spay Package</b>            Includes brief day-of-surgery exam, spay surgery, rabies vaccination (day of surgery), post-op pain meds (when necessary) and taxes. <i>Our 2014 average clinic billing for this package was \$80.</i></p>	<b>\$64-\$90</b>
<p><b>Cat Neuter Package</b>            Includes brief day-of-surgery exam, neuter surgery, rabies vaccination (day of surgery), post-op pain meds (when necessary) and taxes. <i>Our 2014 average clinic billing for this package was \$55.</i></p>	<b>\$50-\$70</b>
<p><b>Cat Pregnant/In-Heat Spay Package</b>            Includes brief day-of-surgery exam, pregnant/in-heat spay surgery, rabies vaccination (day of surgery), post-op pain meds (when necessary) and taxes.</p>	<b>\$84-\$110</b>
<p><b>Cat Cryptorchid Neuter Package</b>            Includes brief day-of-surgery exam, cryptorchid neuter surgery, rabies vaccination (day of surgery), post-op pain meds (when necessary) and taxes.</p>	<b>\$70-\$90</b>

### Spay/Neuter Packages Add-On Services

These services can be invoiced to us if performed on the day of surgery *and* if the caregiver is not billed a co-pay.

Description of Service	Price Range
<p><b>Optional Parasite Treatment</b>            Add-on (including taxes) for cats with visible mites, worms or fleas on day of surgery.</p>	<b>\$5-\$15</b>
<p><b>Optional FVRCP Vaccination</b>            Add-on (including taxes) for an FVRCP vaccination given on the day of surgery.</p>	<b>\$5-\$15</b>

### Acute Care Services

**Acute Care Vouchers** cover the treatment necessary for the voucher-described condition. If treatment can't be provided for the vouchered amount — please work out payment for the excess with the Caregiver before proceeding.

Eligible Charges	Price
Reasonable and customary charges to treat a fixable health issue (injury, wound, infection, pregnancy complication, hernia) in an otherwise healthy pet cat over 6 months old. (Requires separate voucher authorization.)	<b>NTE \$300</b>

*Nonprofit and municipal clinics are also welcome — please call for more information.*