



ZIMMER FELINE FOUNDATION

for The Love of Cats Programs

2017 Veterinary Report

New Mexico Cats Serviced By Program				
	Voucher Spay/Neuter	Voucher Vet Care	Community Spay/Neuter	Total
2017	1,654	61	2,281	3,996
2010-2016	9,854	182	4,262	14,298
Total	11,508	243	6,543	18,294

We spent over \$300,000 in 2017 to provide essential veterinary care for 4,000 cats in northern and central New Mexico. That's over \$25,000 monthly for sterilization and minor medical help.

Voucher Programs:

We very much appreciate the 33 clinics now accepting our vouchers. In 2017, they serviced an average of 52 cats each (1/week). And four of them serviced over 100 cats each: **Brainerd Animal Health Center** in Las Vegas (192 cats), **Salazar Road Veterinary Clinic** in Taos (148 cats), **Western Trails** in Edgewood (136 cats), and **4 Paws Pet Hospital** in Albuquerque (105 cats).

In 2017 we welcomed San Juan County to our service area, with three clinics: **Aztec Animal Shelter**, **Paw Prints Pet Vet**, and **Valley Veterinary Clinic**. And we also welcomed two new clinics to our existing service areas: **Angel Fire Small Animal Hospital** and **Animal Hospital of Los Lunas**.

Community Cat Outreach Program:

We provided spay/neuter funding for **McKinley County Humane** (803 cats), **Espanola Valley Humane** (1,036 cats), and **Santa Fe Shelter and Humane Gatos de Santa Fe Program** (275 cats). Other nonprofits we partnered with included **Animal Welfare Coalition of Northeastern New Mexico**, **Felines & Friends**, **Valencia County Animal Control** and **Four Corners Animal League**. They accounted for another 167 serviced cats.

And our financials are strong. We rolled \$900,000 from an expiring trust into the Foundation in December. And we received a \$40,000 bequest in honor of a feral cat named George. (His is an interesting story, which we've included on the back.) Our fund assets now exceed 2 million providing us with a comfortable endowment to maintain and grow our cat programs. All in all, 2017 was a very good year!

Our Cat Programs at a Glance

Here's an overview of our programs — for the specifics, visit our website.

Cat Spay/Neuter Vouchers:

"Just wanted to say thanks! Got our voucher yesterday and he's at the vet now. Blue showed up at our doorstep and we fell in love. Now we can feel better about keeping our love inside with us forever. Thanks!" -- Salesse, Albuquerque



This is our most-established program. It targets indoor pet cats in homes with household incomes under \$50,000 and strives to provide them with the same level of care that paying-customers' cats receive when they go in for spay/neuter. All vouchers include a pre-surgery exam, the spay or neuter surgery itself (including pregnant or in-heat spays and cryptorchid neuters), post-op pain medicine and a rabies shot. For clinics who want to add more service, we also pay for an optional FVRCP vaccination, a microchip and parasite treatment (for visible parasites). And if a cat comes in with a minor health issue such as an infection or injury – we try to help with that too through our Veterinary Care Program.

Veterinary Care Vouchers:

"From the deepest place in my heart, I thank you for providing for Malaika's veterinary care when she was ill. She is now 100% better. I don't care to think about what I would have done without your help. Thank you for everything you do to help not only me and my companion, but for all cats." – Karen, Santa Fe



This program stands alone or can be used with the spay/neuter vouchers to treat minor illnesses or injuries costing less than \$600 overall to diagnose and treat – with our voucher paying the first \$300. We hope that by making prompt veterinary assistance available to low-income pet cats, caregivers may seek treatment before a minor problem blossoms into something more serious (and expensive) to treat. *(continued on back)*

Our Cat Programs at a Glance *(continued)*

Community Cat Outreach:

"The feline sterilization program you have provided us has allowed us to sterilize hundreds of cats for people who could not pay for this service themselves. For the first time in thirty years, we were not flooded with litters of kittens in the spring. We know this was due to your program." – Clinton K. Balok, DVM, McKinley County Humane, Gallup.



Our **Community Cat Outreach Program** partners with other similar-minded nonprofits who – with additional funding -- could increase the number of cats their spay/neuter efforts reach. We've worked with special events, bridge-funding, TNR and simply providing free spay/neuter to all cats serviced by nonprofit clinics in disadvantaged areas. We have three ongoing partnerships and welcome others.

George's Fund:



"This has been a most satisfying experience and one which took a huge weight off our shoulders to know that this cat would at least have another chance. George is now enjoying his retirement years quite comfortably." -- Margaret Brudon, Ann Arbor (2002)

New for 2018, "**George's Fund**" comes from a bequest we recently received from the estate of an Ann Arbor Michigan couple who spent over 10 years caring for a feral porch-cat named George. In 2002, when we were setting up a cage-free sanctuary for cats in Michigan, they were moving to a retirement community and needed successor care for George. We blended him into the small show-and-tell feral colony at our sanctuary and provided him with life care until he died in 2008 from renal failure. In honor of him and his caregivers, we're using their bequest to help with the occasional request for our help that falls outside of our formal programs, yet is still in keeping with our basic mission (keeping loved cats in caring homes).

If your clinic would like to participate in our voucher programs, simply fill out the enclosed registration form and return it to us for processing. It's a great way to do community service. You'll find us easy to work with and very appreciative of your efforts.

If you're a nonprofit who'd like help extending the number of cats you can fix, call or e-mail us. We can help in a variety of ways including spay/neuter event support, bridge funding if you're between program grants, funding for established TNR programs and more. Let us know how we can help.

About Us

The **Zimmer Feline Foundation** is a private operating foundation established in 1980.

In **2000** we established our first **for The Love of Cats** programs (in Ann Arbor Michigan) to help reduce – and eventually eliminate the shelter practice of killing homeless cats. We tried a variety of approaches including running a cage-free sanctuary for orphaned teenage cats (**2000-2005**) and a grass-roots based TNR (trap-neuter-return) program for managing feral cats (**2001-2009**). Yet – as these programs evolved, we realized that no matter how many cats we sheltered, there would always be more that we could not – and no matter how many feral cats we fixed – there would always be more unsterilized pet cat abandonments to increase the overall free-roaming population.

So, in **2004**, we decided to address the cat overpopulation problem head-on by targeting the root cause — intact low-income pet cats who are given to shelters or abandoned outdoors simply because their caregivers lacked the money to fix them. By fixing them, we improve their chances at keeping their original homes – as it eliminates the behaviors (spraying, yowling and kitting) that are so challenging to live with.

By **2010**, when we moved to New Mexico, our transition from sheltering and feral cat TNR to free-and-local pet cat sterilization was complete. Increasing pet cat retention rates – is an underutilized method of population control that's both effective and humane. *And* one that not only works at reducing overall cat populations but also at strengthening the human-cat bond.

In **2015** we broadened our spay/neuter umbrella to reach cats excluded from our voucher programs (loosely-owned pet cats and feral cat colonies) through partnering with like-minded nonprofits who are better-equipped to deal with the complexities of getting these cats to their spay/neuter appointments.



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