



# ZIMMER FELINE FOUNDATION

## for The Love of Cats Programs

### 2018 Veterinary Report

New Mexico Cats Serviced By Program				
	Voucher Spay/Neuter	Voucher Vet Care	Community Spay/	Total
2018	1,591	77	4,119	5,767
2010-2017	11,508	243	6,543	18,294
Total	13,099	320	10,662	24,061

### Happy New Year!

***“We are each spending the holidays with a new friend — thanks in no small measure to your kindness.”*** — Larry, Estancia

Larry is only one of many thousand cat caregivers who — given the opportunity — would thank you for the community service your clinic provided to ensure that the cat they fell in love with — after finding him in their yard — or in a box in front of Walmart — or adopted off Craig’s list — can now stay in their lives forever. Why? Because you gave their pet the gift of a free-and-local spay or neuter. With that, they can enjoy their new friends long-term without the inevitable worry of spraying, yowling or kitting.

The community would thank you as well — for by doing this — you are reducing the number of cats that are abandoned outdoors to join feral cat colonies or are given to shelters when their intact behaviors become more than their caregivers can live with. **These relinquishments are not because they didn’t love their cats or couldn’t provide daily care for them, but simply because they couldn’t afford to fix them.** And — your participation in our **for the Love of Cats** programs makes spay/neuter possible for all pet cats — regardless of income.

And — we also thank you for your participation. Whether you fixed one cat or a thousand with the help of our funding, you’ve made our dream a reality — to help us help people keep their cats — not until they reach sexual maturity but long-term so the cat-human bond can work as it should — to improve the quality of life of both the cat and the family. We appreciate your dedication and value our partnerships with you and look forward to working with you in 2019.

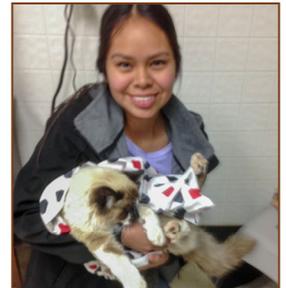
### Our Cat Programs at a Glance

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

#### Cat Spay/Neuter Vouchers:

*“A success! Quill was spayed on August 8 and has fully recovered. Thank you for this possibility. Your help has lightened my load immensely.”*

-- Linda, Farmington



This is our most-established program. It targets companion 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.

**New for 2019: Our pet cat definition has been expanded to include cats living outdoors that are socialized (ie, don’t have to be live-trapped) are fed daily and have access to dry shelter — a porch, a barn, a shed. We believe that many of these cats are well-cared for and loved — and once fixed — may even find their way indoors to share the home of their caregivers.**

#### Veterinary Care Vouchers:

*“I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity of spirit. You were a calm, caring and helpful voice when I (and my cat) really needed it. We are both doing very well now.”* — Juliana, 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

## Our Cat Programs at a Glance *(continued)*

may seek treatment before a minor problem blossoms into something more serious (and expensive) to treat.

### Community Cat Outreach:

*"The cats just keep coming in for their special Z [Zimmer] deal of [free] spay or neuter and vaccinations. We are beyond lucky to work with your feline foundation!"* — 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 four ongoing partnerships — with *Animal Humane New Mexico* (TNR), *Animal Welfare Coalition* (TNR), *Espanola Humane* (all cat spay/neuter) and *McKinley County Humane Society* (all cat spay/neuter) — and welcome others.



### George's Fund:

*"We've put your gift to work right away, with 17 feline spays and neuters. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We couldn't do it without you."* — Stray Hearts Animal Shelter, Taos



This fund came to us as a bequest in memory of an aging feral cat (named George) we provided successor care for when the couple feeding him on their porch moved into an assisted living home.

To honor his — and their memories — we're using the funding to help in non-standard situations that fall between the lines of our established programs but are still in keeping with our mission. During 2018 we were able to help fix a group of cats for *Felines & Friends* that were pulled out of a hoarding situation in Artesia and *Stray Hearts* with the cost of fixing a group of shelter cats through a mobile clinic visit. And — cats that were TNR'd through our partnership with *Animal Humane NM* were covered for necessary wound care and infections while in being fixed. We even helped with a few larger veterinary care bills for individual pet cats that exceeded the limits of our standard veterinary care program.

## About Us

The **Zimmer Feline Foundation** is a private operating foundation established in 1980 currently providing funding for free-and-local cat spay/neuter (and limited veterinary care) in central and northern New Mexico.



The spay/neuter surgeries are performed through (1) a network of participating veterinary clinics accepting our vouchers "as payment in full" for the work we specify and (2) a group of like-minded nonprofit spay/neuter clinics that agree to provide free cat spay/neuter for all of their clients — or in other instances — for feral cats being TNR'd.

And — from the chart on the front of this report — you can see that through these partnerships, we are a significant cat spay/neuter force in New Mexico — with almost 6,000 cats serviced just in 2018 — and over 24,000 cats since our programs here began in 2010. Last year we invested a little over \$400,000 to this effort — and since we began, about \$1.75 million. We feel this is money well-spent helping clinics (full-service and non-profit) service the whole community regardless of income.

Unlike most spay/neuter efforts, our focus is not so much on reducing the overall cat population — as important as that goal may be — but on pet cat retention. So we offer additional veterinary services — vaccinations, parasite treatments, microchips and even treatment for minor health issues while a cat is in for sterilization. Nothing can make a lower-income caregiver more happy about their cat than knowing he/she is receiving the same level of care that cats whose caregivers can afford to fix their pets themselves. It brings a feeling of pride and that pride nurtures long-term care.

If you are a partner in our work, we thank you for all you do to help the neediest of New Mexico cats. You *are* making a difference. If you are *not* a partner but would like to be, please read through the attached registration information and if you want to proceed, simply complete the form and send it back to us. The more clinics participating, the more cats we can reach.



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