



# ZIMMER FELINE FOUNDATION

## for The Love of Cats Programs 2020 Annual Report

### Cats May Help Ease Pandemic Stress

*“There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: Music and Cats.”* — Albert Schweitzer



Who would have imagined last January what laid ahead for us? Yet three months into 2020, life as we knew it, was turned upside down — and we were all forced out of our comfort zones into the realm of the unknown.

**One silver-lining of the Covid-19 crisis is our renewed awareness of the value of pet cats.** Their ability to lower our stress and anxiety, improve our cardiovascular health and reduce feelings of loneliness have always been important reasons to care for them — but during the pandemic — they’ve become life savers to help us through stay-at-home orders.

Yet, the pandemic has also made it more challenging to get veterinary care for them. From March to June clinics were closed for non-essential services and spay/neuter came to a halt. And then, when clinics could open again, they faced a deluge of demand with new safety measures hampering their normal ability to care for their clients. (We still get reports of it taking a month to schedule a spay/neuter.)

We hope that this doesn’t result in a kitten tsunami in 2021. But if it does — we’re prepared to help with our free spay/neuter vouchers and our partnerships that fund free spay/neuter through other nonprofits.

***We’ve always appreciated the support we get from the New Mexico veterinary community — but this year— knowing the Covid-19 challenges clinics are enduring — we are even more amazed and appreciative of their help. Thank you and Happy New Year!***

### Our Cat Programs at a Glance

New Mexico Cats Serviced By Program				
	Voucher Spay/Neuter	Voucher Vet Care	Community Spay/Neuter	Total
2020	1,518	33	3,356	4,907
2010-2019	14,767	371	15,390	30,528
Total	16,285	404	18,746	35,435

*2020 was essentially a 10-month year because of the Spring Covid-19 shutdown of non-essential services and this is reflected in our total numbers above. Voucher spay/neuters were down about 10% while the Community Cat spay/neuters were down 28% over 2019. We expect to see the numbers go back up for 2021.*

### Companion Cat Free Spay/Neuter Vouchers

Through the concerted efforts of 29 participating vet clinics located south to Roswell and north to Raton, we can provide low-income family pet cats with spay/neuter vouchers. They cover the full cost of a pre-surgery exam, the spay or neuter surgery, (including pregnant, in-heat, or cryptorchid surgeries) post-op pain medication and a rabies vaccination. And — for clinics that want to, — we also cover an FVRCP shot, microchip and treatment for visible parasites at time of surgery.



*Our goal is to give these cats the same level of treatment other cats receive whose caregivers can afford to fix them on their own. And — we know that for many of the cats we help — this spay/neuter appointment may be their only opportunity to receive veterinary care.*

## Our Cat Programs (continued)

### Companion Cat Veterinary Care Vouchers



We like this program best when it's used in conjunction with our free spay/neuter vouchers. A cat goes in to be neutered and during the pre-surgical exam the doctor notices a minor condition that can be treated at the same time. They simply call or e-mail

us with a photo of the cat and an estimate and if we can approve the work, we'll e-mail back a voucher for the extra medical care.

**We can also help with other minor non-emergency health issues in cats that are already fixed.** *Details on this (and of our other programs) are posted to our web site.*

### Community Cat Partnerships

As effective as our spay/neuter vouchers are, they only work well with indoor pet cats that can reliably keep a pre-scheduled surgery appointment.

To reach the harder-to-catch outdoor cats (feral cats, barn cats and yard cats) that also need free spay/neuter help we've partnered with other nonprofit clinics. They already work with a broad spectrum of cats and often have traps available to safely transport feral cats to their clinic. They simply offer their spay/neuter services to the public for free with us providing them with a monthly reimbursement of the lost income.

*During 2020 we worked with Animal Humane New Mexico (TNR), Animal Welfare Coalition of Northeastern New Mexico (TNR), Espanola Humane, Felines & Friends New Mexico, McKinley County Humane Society, and Stray Hearts Animal Shelter (Last Litter Program).*



## In Memory of Edward F. Zimmer

*“Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep.” — Mary Elizabeth Frye*



Sadly, Ed Zimmer, our Founder and President, died in September.

Ed started the Foundation in the 1980's out of his earnings from Ann Arbor Terminals — a CRT display company he founded with Michael Levine in the 1970's.

Their products were among the first to use TV monitors to see computer data — and were precursors to the desktop computers we use today. In 1985 the company ranked in the Top 50 High Tech Companies in Michigan. (It also was one of the first companies to have a female-dominated management team.)

Initially the Foundation was set up to mentor start-up companies — an area dear to Ed's heart but in 2000, the operation of the Foundation passed to his wife Kitty who repurposed it to work on cat welfare issues with Ed's blessing and support. He shared Kitty's love of cats — a love that started when he was a child living on a New Hampshire farm — where he was the caregiver for a colony of feral barn cats.

Ed's involvement as mentor and financial manager for the Foundation continued up to his passing. Kitty has now succeeded him as President and will continue the programs in his loving memory.



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