



FRIENDS OF FELINES
P.O. Box 475
Castle Hayne, N.C. 28429

February 28, 2023

Dear Mayor Barbee, Mayor Pre Tem Healy, Council Members Benson, Hoffer & LeCompte,

Friends of Felines was formed in 1996 as a 501 c 3 Non-Profit Rescue group in New Hanover County. We are requesting \$2,000.00 in funding to trap/neuter/vaccinate/return feral and free roaming cats in Carolina Beach. This will neuter and vaccinate approximately 55 cats. Historically, Carolina Beach has been a dumping ground for unwanted cats from the Wilmington area. Sadly, these unaltered cats have become feral and reproduced causing an overpopulation of cats on the island.

Over the last 27 years the feral cat population has reduced greatly due to the TNVR program, however there is still much more to be done. We have already begun the process of identifying households that feed free roaming cats. The caregivers we have contacted are very positive in their response to any offer of assistance with their free-roaming cat colonies.

The funds we are requesting will help us continue to focus on the proactive approach as well as react to the current issues at hand. We are making a real difference in the overpopulation of feral and stray cats in this area with the help of committed caregivers and compassionate town council members like you.

Friends of Felines has a hotline, FB page, website, email address and monitor local social media pages where residents who need help can get in touch with us to get help. We loan caregiver's traps and carriers, show them how to use them and schedule an appointment with one of our dedicated veterinarians in the area. If someone is elderly or physically cannot trap/transport, we will have a volunteer help.

Protocols:

1. Cats must be feral/free roaming or un-owned.
2. Cats must have a caregiver to provide food/water and as much shelter as possible.
3. Volunteer will speak with each person asking for assistance to make sure it is okay to trap on the property.
4. Volunteer/Caregiver must have the okay from homeowner/renter or resident
5. Flyers will be passed out and placed in doors to let people know what we are doing and when we will be there.
6. Cats will be trapped in a humane trap with a towel placed over it to keep the cats quiet.



A 501 (c) (3) 56-1973859 Non-Profit Organization
friendsofelines.org

Cats will be transported to one of our participating Veterinarian hospitals where they will be seen by a licensed vet. Once under anesthesia, they will be given a physical and oral exam. The cats will then be spayed/neutered and vaccinated for rabies and distemper. They are placed in a carrier with a towel on the bottom where they will be observed during the recovery period. Volunteers/Caregivers will take the cats home for post-surgery observation (24 – 48 hours), then taken back to the area in which they were trapped and released.

Targeted TNVR will provide spay/neuter and vaccine services to approximately 85 cats and kittens in Carolina Beach. All of the Project's spay/neuter surgeries will be funded with this money. In addition, residents will be educated about feral cat care and the need for TNVR.

1. Target Identification:

We are working with New Hanover County Animal Services & Carolina Beach residents to determine the area of greatest need within the community. We appreciate any and all input on areas that need help. We are currently working with Connie Jo Evans to get all of her colonies spayed/neutered and vaccinated. She has several colonies she cares for on the island, none of which are completely under control. We just finished the Mermaid project which was one of her colonies with 7 cats. The building was demolished the morning after we caught the last orange tabby cat. Connie Jo is just one example of people in need.

2. Project effectiveness and impact:

We have reduced the number of complaints to the town and Animal Services by reducing the number of cats in the area. Once a cat is fixed, poor behavior such as spraying, fighting, mating and roaming are greatly reduced if not eliminated. We want to continue the downward trend of complaints.

We have reduced the number of killed or injured cats on our roads.

Our program has continued to reduce the number of kittens born under porches, houses, sheds and in the woods. These kittens would have grown up and continue the breeding cycle.

We reduce the number of animals turned into Animal Services which costs the county approximately \$100 for one cat to be housed and fed prior to being euthanized.

Community involvement and education is the key to any programs success. Colony caregivers will become aware of the importance of spaying/neutering their animals and how easy it can be achieved. Spreading knowledge and information about caring for feral cats, and hands on training will be vital to the proper continuing care for these animals.

With this money we will be able to reduce the number of cat complaints to the town, cats that are killed or injured on the side of the road, help educate the people on the importance of fixing their animals, reduce the euthanasia rate from this area at animal services and most importantly save animals lives. It is a win-win proposal.

2023 Budget

Current year budget – we rely solely on donations. We spend as much money as we have available on spay/neuter, medical and food for feral cats that have gone through our program. Our budget varies based on donations. Our average spay/neuter cost per cat is \$35. This includes spay/neuter, rabies vaccine, distemper vaccine and ear tip.

We have no paid employees. Our volunteers work out of their homes.

Major sources of funding are from donations, grants and awards.

Financial Statement enclosed

Please see additional information on our program.

Cc: Bruce Oakley – Town Manager
Debbie Hall - Finance Director
Kim Ward – Town Clerk

Friends of Felines
Profit & Loss
January through December 2022
Jan - Dec 22

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions	11,565.42
Estate	105,451.16
Fundraising	1,395.00
PayPal	6,405.29
Total Income	124,816.87
Expense	
Advertising	670.00
Bank Service Charges	32.00
Best Friends Convention	484.99
Cat Food	5,153.64
Cremation Services	240.00
Equipment	2,307.06
Medical Expense	
Spay/Neuter Expense	46,438.80
Vaccines/Medical Supplies	600.00
Medical Expense - Other	5,829.63
Total Medical Expense	52,868.43
Miscellaneous	50.00
NC State Fees	127.00
Office Expenses (incl gifts)	559.03
Supplies	163.73
Telephone	526.00
Vehicle Expenses	
Gas	384.96
Vehicle Insurance	344.89
Vehicle Expenses - Other	54.94
Total Vehicle Expenses	784.79
Website	330.41
Total Expense	64,297.08
Net Ordinary Income	60,519.79
Net Income	60,519.79

FRIENDS OF FELINES

Friends of Felines is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. Our purpose is:

PROMOTING HUMANE NON-LETHAL POPULATION CONTROL OF FERAL CATS BY MEANS OF A "TRAP/SPAY-NEUTER/VACCINATE/RETURN" PROGRAM; EDUCATION TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERSHIP.

What are Feral cats? Pet cats who have been abandoned by their owners and have not been spayed or neutered are left to forage for food wherever they can find it. They band together to form "colonies" at a food source. When kittens are born, the mothers teach them to be wary of humans, to defend themselves, and they become feral (wild, untamed, undomesticated).

Friends of Felines advocates a "trap/spay-neuter/vaccinate/return" program in which cats are returned to the location where they were trapped. There must be a committed caretaker for Friends of Felines to work with, and the caretaker must continue to provide food and water on a daily basis for the cats.

"Trap and Kill" has NOT worked!! Other cats fill the void if there is any type of food source, and the breeding starts over again. "Trap and kill" costs taxpayer money (approximately \$100 to process on cat through Animal Services to be killed).

The most humane and cost effective solution is "trap/spay-neuter/vaccinate/return". The cats protect their territory and eventually die out through natural attrition.

Friends of Felines provides education about the benefits of the "trap/spay-neuter/vaccinate/return" program. FOF provides instructions in humanely trapping feral cats and asks for a \$35 donation for the spay/neuter of each cat. All of the feral cats are vaccinated for rabies and distemper. We tip the left ear 1/8 inch to distinguish them apart from domestic cats. We loan humane traps and recovery pet carriers for use in our Feral Cat Program.

As an all-volunteer, non-profit, charitable organization, donations of any amount are needed and greatly appreciated.

Mailing address:
Friends of Felines
PO Box 475
Castle Hayne, NC 28429
friendsofelines@aol.com
910-452-6721

FEEDING A FERAL CAT IS VERY KIND... GETTING IT "FIXED" IS EVEN KINDER.

CARETAKER INFORMATION SHEET

Friends of Felines, the State of North Carolina and the County of New Hanover want you to know the laws and codes concerning the care and well being of your feral colony. The following paragraphs outline the expectations of caretakers regarding care, vaccinations and complaints.

The caretaker must maintain their colony in an environment of sanitary conditions. All cats need adequate protection from the elements and have adequate food and water supply. If any animal becomes sick or diseased, the caretaker must contact their veterinarian to have the animal examined and properly cared for. All cats in the colony must be spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies.

The first rabies vaccination of a cat is valid for one year from the date of vaccination. A second vaccination is due after one year and is valid for three years from the date of vaccination. Friends of Felines will assist caretakers by lending you traps to have the cats vaccinated against rabies at the proper time. Rabies as well as distemper vaccinations are critical in controlling the spread of these diseases.

If a nuisance complaint is reported to Animal Services regarding your feral colony, please contact Friends of Felines at friendsofelines@aol.com as soon as possible. A public nuisance is anything, which annoys and disturbs right and privileges of others. Example: a cat turning over garbage containers, or damaging flower or vegetable gardens. Friends of Felines will assist you in answering any medical questions, vaccination dates and overall condition of your colony. We will work with you and Animal Services to resolve the complaint.

We ask all caretakers to keep cats under sanitary and humane conditions, to provide proper food and water at all times, shelter from the weather, reasonably clean quarters and proper medical attention for sick, diseased or injured animals, as well as adequate vaccinations against disease according to the laws of the State of North Carolina and the County of New Hanover.

PRINT NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

HOME ADDRESS (for newsletter) _____

LOCATION OF COLONY _____

DATE _____ TELEPHONE _____

FRIENDS OF FELINES REPRESENTATIVE _____

This information will not be viewed, shared or sold to any private or government organization, individual or entity.
It is for the sole use of Friends of Felines.

HUMANE TRAPPING INSTRUCTIONS

PREPARATION FOR TRAPPING

If possible, get the cats used to being fed at the same place and time of day.

You might try leaving the trap unset and covered with a large towel during routine feeding so that the cat will get used to seeing and smelling it in the area.

Don't feed the cats the day/night before you are going to trap so the cats will be hungry. Be sure to notify others who may feed the cats not to leave food out either.

Plan to trap so that you don't have to keep the cat too long before surgery. Trapping the night before is usually the best approach. Cats should not eat 8 hours prior to surgery. Water should be available if the cat is kept in the trap for more than 4 hours after capture.

Prepare the area where you will be holding the cats before and after the clinic. A garage or other sheltered, warm/cool, protected area is best. Lay down newspapers to catch the inevitable stool, urine and food residue. You may want to use pieces of wood to elevate the traps off the newspapers. This allows the mess to fall through the wire away from the cats. Spraying the area ahead of time with a cat safe flea spray (like Adams or Ovitrol) will discourage ants.

Prepare the vehicle you will use to transport them as well. Plastic may be an additional precaution, but remember that you will need to use newspapers or some other absorbent material on top of the plastic. Urine will roll right off of the plastic and that isn't what you want.

Plan your day of trapping carefully. Remember that if you trap an animal and release it for some reason, it is unlikely that you will be able to catch it again anytime soon... they learn very quickly.

If there are young kittens involved, remember that they should not be weaned from the mother before 4-6 weeks of age. If you are trapping a lactating female, you may want to wait until you have located the kittens and they are old enough to wean. If you wish to tame and foster the kittens to adopt out, they should be taken from the mother at 4-6 weeks. If you wait until the kittens are older than 4-6 weeks before trying to tame them you will find the job progressively harder with age. (FOF has written instructions on Taming Feral Kittens and Raising Orphan Kittens).

SETTING THE TRAPS

Plan to set traps just before or at the cats' normal feeding time. This is often at night. Dusk is usually the best time to set traps.

Don't trap in the rain or the heat of the day without adequate protection for the trap. Cats are vulnerable in the traps and could drown during storms or suffer from heatstroke in the sun. Use common sense!

If you are having trouble catching your cat, line the bottom of the trap with pine straw or sand to cover the wire bottom. Only cover to the trip plate. This will feel more natural to them and may help coax them to the food. Be careful not to

put too much straw or sand in the trap. We do not want it to interfere with the trap mechanism or prevent the door from closing properly.

Plan placement of traps on a level surface in the area where the cats usually feed or have been seen. Cats are less likely to enter the trap if it wobbles. If trapping in a public area, try to place traps where they will not be noticed by passersby (who may not understand that you are not trying to harm the cat). Bushes are often places where cats hide and provide good camouflage for the trap.

Use smelly food to bait the trap. We find that canned mackerel is very effective and relatively inexpensive. It is best not to put any bowls inside the trap to hold food since the animal can easily hurt itself on it in a panic. Paper coffee filters or a small piece of aluminum foil works well. (Smelly canned cat food also works).

If the situation requires that you are trapping very early morning on the day of the vet appointment, soak a small scrap of newspaper in the mackerel juice and place it on the ground where you plan to place the rear of the trap.

Spoon a small amount of food onto the soaked newspaper scrap and place the trap on top of the food so the food is as far back in the trap as possible while still not accessible from outside the trap. (You want the cat to go all the way into the trap to avoid being injured when the trap door closes.) Press the trap down onto the food so that it squishes up through the wire. The idea is to make the food a little harder to get so that the cat has to go into the trap as far as possible and has to work at getting it long enough to trip the trap. (Some cats are very good at getting in and out of traps without getting caught. We don't want to make it too easy for them to get away with the trick. Also, having the food essentially outside of the trap prevents the cat from eating it in the trap before surgery and is less messy).

After baiting the trap, open the trap door pushing the top of the door in and pulling bottom of the door upward. There is a small hook attached to the right side of the trap top. It hooks onto a tiny metal cylinder on the right side of the door. The hook holds the door in an open position and raises the trip plate. When the cat steps on the plate it will cause the hook to release from the door and close the trap.

Just before you are ready to leave the trap for the cat to enter, you may want to push the hook (ever so slightly) a little bit back off the cylinder to create a "hair trigger". (Don't get too carried away with this step or the trap will trip as soon as the cat takes a sniff).

WAITING FOR SUCCESS

Never leave traps unattended in an unprotected area, but don't hang around within sight of the cat (or you will scare it off). The trapped animal is vulnerable. Passersby may release the cat or steal the trap! Wait quietly in an area where you can still see the traps without disturbing the cats. Check traps every 15 minutes or so. You can often hear the traps trip from a distance. As soon as the intended cat is trapped, COMPLETELY COVER THE TRAP TO CALM THE CAT and remove the trap from the area if other cats are not in sight. You may consider putting another trap in the same on the ground when you pick up the trap. (You don't want to litter or give out any freebies and spoil any appetites!)

When you get the captured cat to a quiet area away from the other traps, lift the cover and check for signs that you have the correct animal and not a pet or previously neutered feral. If you note that you have captured a lactating female check the area for kittens and remember that this female must be released 10-12 hours after surgery so she can care for and nurse her kittens. A volunteer will advise the veterinarian that this is a lactating female who has kittens and needs

to be returned as quickly as possible. Cover the cat back up as soon as possible. Uncovered, the animal may panic and hurt itself thrashing around in the trap.

Of course, there is always the chance that you will catch some other wild animal attracted to the food or an unintended cat. Simply release the animal quietly as stated in the releasing procedures here.

HOLDING PROCEDURES

After you have finished trapping, you will have to hold the cats overnight until you can take them to the vet the following morning.

Place cats in the prepared protected area. The cat should not have any food or water after midnight the night before surgery. If the cat is in the trap long enough to need a meal, canned cat foods have some water content and they can be dropped through the wire in the trap. One suggestion to give the cat some water is to place ice cubes into the trap by dropping them through the wire top of the trap.

Keep cats covered and check them periodically. They will probably be very quiet as long as they are covered. Don't stick fingers in the trap or allow children or pets near the traps. These are wild animals that can scratch and bite. **ALL ANIMAL BITES ARE SERIOUS. IF YOU ARE BITTEN, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION AND DO NOT RELEASE THE CAT. IT MUST BE QUARANTINED. CONTACT ANIMAL CONTROL FOR QUARANTINE INSTRUCTIONS.**

Wash and change clothes before having contact with your own pets as a precaution against spreading any contagious diseases the cats might carry.

Always get feral kittens checked out by a vet and isolate them from your pets. Some deadly diseases can incubate without symptoms. Check with your veterinarian and use caution.

POST SURGERY CARE

After surgery, the cat is placed in a carrier provided by Friends of Felines. The caretaker picks up the cat from the veterinarian's office and provides a safe recovery area. The recuperation time for feral cats is 24 to 48 hours. A food and water dish is placed on the inside of the front door of the carrier so food and water can be placed in them without opening the carrier. Do not open the carrier door. The cat must recuperate in the carrier.

RELEASING THE CATS

If the cat does not seem to be recovering well from the surgery, contact the FOF volunteer we will have it checked out by a vet before releasing. When cats are ready for release, return to the area in which they were captured and release them there.

DO NOT relocate the animal. It will be disoriented and most likely die. In all likelihood, area cats will drive it away.

If the veterinarian discovers a serious medical problem that cannot be treated, and the veterinarian deems that it is impossible for the cat to be returned safely to its colony, the decision to euthanise can be made. Feline leukemia (FeLv), FIV, respiratory infections, and a number of other conditions can mean suffering and a slow death.

The cat will be released back to the same spot where you trapped it. Make sure the spot you pick for release does not encourage the cat to run into danger (like a busy street) to get away from you. When ready, simply place the carrier on the ground with the door facing away from you and open the door. The cat will probably bolt immediately out of the carrier. If it is confused, just tilt the carrier so the back is slightly up and tap on the back of the carrier to encourage it to leave. Never put your hand in the carrier.

After releasing the cats, clean traps and carriers with disinfectant, then with bleach. You can mix up 90% water and 10% bleach in a spray bottle. Spray the traps and carriers with the mixture, let set a few minutes and rinse off. Make sure all residue is out of the traps and carriers and ready for the next cat to use. Never store traps in the set position (door open); animals may wander into even un-baited traps and starve to death.

HELPFUL HINTS

Bring a flashlight with you if trapping at night. It will come in handy for checking traps from a distance and might help you avoid a twisted ankle in the dark.

Bring a cap for the top of the Mackerel can. Nothing smells worse than fish juice spilled in the car. Don't forget a spoon.

Females with kittens will be attracted by the sound of their kittens if the previously captured kittens are placed in a covered carrier just behind the trap. Similarly, kittens will be easier to trap if the previously captured mother is in the carrier.

For advice regarding the taming and or fostering of feral or orphaned kittens, consult your veterinarian. You may also obtain information on these subjects from Friends of Felines. We have written instructions on "Taming Feral Kittens" and "Raising Orphan Kittens."