

"Helping the forgotten ones"



FRIENDS OF FELINES

P.O. Box 475

Castle Hayne, N.C. 28429

February 1, 2025

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

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 50 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 29 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 (1 to 5 days), then taken back to the area in which they were trapped and released.

Targeted TNVR will provide spay/neuter and vaccine services to approximately 50 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 off Spartanburg, we took three kittens to be adopted and fixed the mom and dad who were returned. We believe there may be one or two more. We caught one female on Harper & 8th and are currently trapping for more. We caught 5 kittens to be adopted on Ocean Blvd and are currently trapping for mom & dad.

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 \$125 for one cat to be housed and fed prior to being euthanized.

Community involvement and education is the key to any program's 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.

2025 Budget

Current year budget – we rely solely on charitable contributions. We spend as much money as we have available on spay/neuter, medical and food for feral cats & kittens that have gone through our program. Our budget varies based on donations. Our average spay/neuter cost per cat is \$40. This includes spay/neuter, rabies vaccine, distemper vaccine and ear tip.

We have no paid employees. We are a volunteer based only group.

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

Financial Statement enclosed

Please see additional information on our program.

Thank you once again for your time and consideration.

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