

## It Takes A Community Effort...



**Thank you for getting your cats fixed!** We're happy to provide you with this free spay/neuter service and hope it helps you enjoy your cats for many years to come. Once sterilized,

cats become better companions — often healthier and easier to care for — no longer yowling, cat-fighting or kitting. Directions on using our vouchers are enclosed, but if you have any additional questions please call us and we'll be happy to answer them.

## Help Us Reach Others

We'd like others to benefit from our vouchers too and we're asking your help in reaching them — it's easy to do and won't take much of your time.

**Post Our Flyer.** Simply post the enclosed flyer on a community bulletin board — ideally one where you live, work, shop or attend school or church. Anywhere you think that cat lovers in your neighborhood may see it. (If you have time and want to post more flyers, just let us know and we'd be happy to supply them. Or visit our web site and download it to a color printer.)

**Provide Us With Photos.** If you have any photos of your cats you'd like to share with us for use in publicizing this program, please mail them to our PO Box or send them to our e-mail address. Photos of the cats we help puts a face on our service.

## About Us

Since 2000 — first in Michigan and now in Santa Fe — with the cooperation of area veterinary clinics — we've been providing free spay/neuter vouchers to both caregivers of lower-income pet cats and managers of naturally-occurring yard and barn cats.



This is what we do. So far we've helped over 3,000 caregivers fix — and keep — over 13,000 cats. Cats that could have ended up on their own outdoors or euthanized in a shelter without this service.

## Liability Release

*By redeeming our vouchers, the recipient acknowledges that the Zimmer Foundation's role is solely that of "bill payer" for the work itemized on them. Recipient agrees to waive and release the Zimmer Foundation and its representatives from any liability that may arise from the use of their vouchers and acknowledges that all cats face risks during handling, anesthesia, surgery and post-operative recovery and will not hold the Zimmer Foundation responsible should their cat experience complications, injury, escape or death. The Zimmer Foundation has the right to modify or terminate this program — or the recipient's participation in it — at any time and at their sole discretion with or without notice.*

# Cat Spay/Neuter Voucher Program



**"Each year millions of healthy cats and kittens continue to die in the United States because they are homeless. It doesn't matter if their deaths are painless—what matters is their deaths are pointless."**

— Gail Palmer, The Spayed Club

## Voucher Procedure

Our program is easy to use if you follow these simple guidelines:

### When The Voucher Arrives

- Check the vouchers to make sure you have one for each cat and that the information is correct.
- Review the list of participating clinics and select one you want to work with.
- Call the clinic to set up your appointment — it may take a week or two to get scheduled and you must get in before the voucher expires.
- If you don't have a carrier for your cat (or live trap if the cat is feral) arrange to borrow one from a friend or relative. You'll need one carrier or trap per cat.

### The Day Before Surgery

- Keep your cat indoors — to ensure you'll have the cat for his/her appointment.
- Withhold food after midnight.
- Follow any pre-surgery directions provided by the vet clinic.

### The Day Of Surgery

- Continue withholding food.
- Take the cat in a carrier or live trap to the clinic at the time specified.
- Give the clinic your cat's spay/neuter voucher. (They cannot bill us for her surgery unless they have the voucher beforehand.)
- Pick up the cat later that day or the following morning if the clinic requires an overnight stay.
- Follow the post-surgery directions provided by your clinic.

## Frequently-Asked Questions

**1. What Does The Voucher Cover?** The voucher pays for the full cost to spay or neuter your cat and for one rabies shot — if done at time of surgery— *provided* you use before it expires for the cat speci-



fied on it at one of our area clinics. *The clinic may offer additional products and services that you may purchase at your own option and expense.*

**2. Can I get my cat fixed while she's in heat, pregnant or nursing kittens?** Yes. Depending on the clinic policies, a cat can be spayed while in heat, pregnant or nursing *provided* she is in overall good health *and* the vet is comfortable doing the procedure. Discuss this with the clinic when you call for your appointment.

If you think your cat is pregnant, spay her as soon as possible as the more pregnant she is, the more complicated the surgery. And — remember that a nursing cat can already be pregnant with a new litter.

**3. Can I get my cat declawed while she's being fixed?** Not if you're using one of our vouchers. We don't support the practice of declawing cats and won't honor vouchers for cats if they are being declawed — even if you pay the additional cost. You can reasonably control your cat's scratching by keeping their nails trimmed and providing them with scratching posts.

**4. What if I can't catch my cats to get them fixed?** If your cats won't let you pick them up, you'll need

## Frequently-Asked Questions (cont.)

to live-trap them for their surgery. Details on how to do this are in our *Feral Colony Management Handbook* available by telephone or on our web site.

**5. What if I lose my voucher or it expires before I use it?** If you lose your voucher, call us as soon as you realize it. If there is time to replace it before its expiration date we will. **But if your voucher expires, we do not issue a replacement.**

**6. Can I apply for more spay/neuter vouchers in the future?** Possibly. First make sure that *all* your current cats are included on your first application — if you do this and get *all* of them fixed at the same time — you can apply for more vouchers for new cats you adopt (up to a lifetime maximum of 6 cats per household).

To receive more vouchers, you must continue to meet our program eligibility requirements, *and* have fully cooperated with the clinic who did your earlier surgeries.

*Note: Program specifics can change with time — call or visit our web site for up-to-date information.*



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