

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, feral cats become easier to care for — often healthier and friendlier — 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 — 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.



Fer
in-
ers

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.

Feral Cat Management 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 Vouchers Arrive

- Verify you have one voucher for each cat.
- Select a vet from the list of participating clinics. Call to set up your appointments, and schedule 2-3 cats at a time if possible — but no more than you can confidently trap.
- If you don't already have live traps, rent, borrow or buy some. Depending on the colony size, 2 or 3 traps should be adequate.

Acclimate the cats to the live traps.

- **3-4 days** before actually live-trapping, place the traps in your feeding area visually isolated from each other. Lock the doors in the “open” position and line the bottoms with newspaper.
- At meal time each day put some of their food in the live traps so they get used to going in. **Do not leave food out between meals or the cats will be more difficult to trap.**

Live Trap & Hold The Cats For Their Appointments

2-3 Days before your surgery appointments, begin live-trapping and caring for the trapped cats using the directions on page 3-4 of the enclosed handbook.



The Day Of Surgery

- Take the cats in their live traps to the clinic at the time specified — one cat per trap.
- Give the clinic each cat's spay/neuter voucher.

Voucher Procedure (cont.)

(They cannot bill us for the surgery unless they have the voucher beforehand.)

- Pick up the cat when the vet notifies you.

Post-Surgery Care and Release

- Follow any clinic post-surgery directions.
- If possible, hold cats for a day (male) or two days (female). Otherwise release as soon as they're out of the effects of anesthesia — alert with a normal body temperature. See page 4 of the enclosed handbook for details.

Frequently-Asked Questions

1. What Do The Vouchers Cover?

Vouchers pay for the **full** cost to spay or neuter your cat, vaccinate once for rabies and ear-tip the left ear (see enclosed handbook p.7) — provided you use the vouchers before they expire for the cat specified on it at one of our participating clinics. **The clinic may offer additional products and services that you may purchase at your own option and expense.**



2. I only received some of my vouchers — where are the rest?

If you applied for both kitten and adult cats, we provide the adult vouchers first. If you get your complete adult colony sterilized within the allotted time period, we'll provide vouchers for the kittens on your list if they are remaining in the colony. If they're adopted out, their caregivers must apply on their own.

3. Can I get my cat fixed while she's in heat,

Frequently-Asked Questions (cont.)

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 and see Page 3 of the enclosed handbook for more information. *If you think a cat is pregnant, spay her quickly as the more pregnant she is, the more complicated the surgery. And — remember that a nursing cat may already be pregnant again.*

4. What if I lose my vouchers or they expire before I use them? If you lose a voucher, call us as soon as you realize it. If there is time to replace it before its expiration date we will. **But if the vouchers expire, we do not issue replacements.**

5. 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 newcomers (up to a lifetime maximum of 20 cats). To receive more vouchers, you must continue to meet 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.*



PO Box 6815 • Santa Fe, NM 87502
Phone: (505) 466-1676 • Fax: (505) 466-1189
E-mail: TheLoveOfCats@comcast.net
Web: Zimmer-Foundation.org