

**Beckoning Cat Project
Low Cost Spay/Neuter & Wellness Clinic**

**1417 East Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-505-1473**

Beckoning Cat Mews Summer/Fall 2017

14,000 Cats have now been spayed or neutered!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our Give a Little Trail Obstacle competition fundraiser was held on June 3, 2017 Elysian Fields Equestrian Center in Montoursville, PA. We had a beautiful day for the competition and our entries were full. Stoney Creek Stables Equestrian Team provided the food for the day. Addey from Awarding Images was set up making t-shirts for the crowd.

We would like to send out a huge thank you to Jane Hunter for designing the main course and for all of her time and effort in this fundraiser. Another big thank you to Megan Casper who designed the indoor course and spent many hours helping me get the grounds ready for the show. We also need to thank our sponsors, Sean's Sawdust Creations, who created and transported two of our main obstacles, Sideout Stables, Wild Hare Photography, Painted Trail and last, but certainly not least, Fort Muncy Garden Center, who provided all of the trees and flowers that made the courses so beautiful. Thank you, as well, to all of the volunteers who helped out during the event. We couldn't have done this without you all.

Congratulations to the \$300 winner of the open class, Danielle Foust, riding Smart Like a Fox. We were able to raise just over \$1200 with this event.

Thank you Petco Foundation:

We are thrilled to be recognized by Petco Foundation for our life saving and life altering spay and neuter work. A \$7500 grant from them will help us continue to humanely and effectively save lives and control the cat overpopulation. We will be able to offer spay/neuter, vaccinations and medical care to over 100 feral and stray cats in Lycoming County at no cost to their caregivers. #PetcoFoundation.

GLOBAL FERAL CAT DAY:

October 16th is Global Feral Cat Day. Once again we will be participating in a TNR effort by offering a free spay/neuter for up to 20 cats. We held a contest called Prepare to "Cat"ivate us. We encouraged individuals and groups to submit entries telling us why their colony should receive the free TNR (value over \$1200). Entries are due September 25th. For more info visit our FB page.

FVRCP Vaccine:

In the recent months we have been made aware of many feline distemper (panleukopenia) outbreaks in our service area. Multiple colonies have been affected and numerous cats have died. While the main symptom is projectile diarrhea (may be bloody) there can also be vomiting and other symptoms. It can come on suddenly and is almost always fatal if not treated. Treatment can be very expensive and does not guarantee survival. It is also very contagious, which is why entire colonies can succumb to the disease.

One of the common misconceptions is that this only affects outdoor cats. This is a myth. The virus is easily transferred on contact and your indoor cat can get this deadly disease if not vaccinated.

The FVRCP vaccine protects against this disease, as well as, the two most common upper respiratory viruses. While boosters are recommended after the initial vaccine, even one can offer some protection.

We at Beckoning Cat Project feel very strongly about keeping the cats in our area healthy and for this reason we will be offering the initial FVRCP for feral cats (ones that receive an ear tip) for \$5.00. The cost for pets and all cats that do not receive an ear tip is \$13, plus \$13 for each booster (no additional office charges will apply). We highly encourage you to spend the \$13 to save your cat's life.

CAT FACTS:

- Most cats have type A blood, although some exotics have type B or AB. There is no type O in cats. There also is no guarantee what blood type your cat will have so a vet must always check before a transfusion.
- Cats have 230 bones.
- Maine Coon cats are the largest breed of domestic cat, some topping out at 20 pounds, although the average is much smaller than that.
- All tabby cats have an M marking on the forehead. It does not mean they are a Maine Coon cat.
- Torbie coloring is a tabby with tortoiseshell coloring. They are often confused with calicos.

Pyometra and Your Cat by Meghan Welch, DVM

You've just been told that your cat has a pyometra—a uterine infection. Naturally, you have questions about this serious condition and her prognosis. Let us help you out with some answers.

What is a pyometra? “Pyometra” means “pus-filled uterus.” A pyometra is essentially a false pregnancy gone very wrong, but can occasionally occur with a real pregnancy as well, or a retained placenta after birth.

What are the symptoms? Most of the time a pyometra results in vaginal discharge or bleeding (open pyometra), but the more dangerous closed form can be present with no discharge at all. Your cat might feel lethargic, have increased drinking and/or urination, stop eating, run a fever, vomit or have diarrhea, lose weight or even collapse/go into shock. Conversely, some cats have no symptoms at all other than vaginal discharge.

But don't cats bleed when they're in heat like dogs do? ABSOLUTELY NOT. There is *never* a healthy reason for a cat to have any kind of vaginal discharge, be it blood, fluid, pus or anything else.

How did this happen to my cat? The simplest explanation has to do with cat physiology. Cats are known as “induced ovulators” which means that once they go into heat, they stay in heat until they are bred or spayed. The act of being bred causes the cat to ovulate and once that happens, pregnancy ensues. However, if the cat ovulates and does not get pregnant (which can occur with inexperienced or infertile males, neutered males, young females or rough play while in heat that simulates breeding behavior), the ovaries begin producing progesterone and her body behaves as if it’s pregnant. The resulting hormonal changes in the uterus make it very susceptible to circulating bacteria, especially if she has other issues such as respiratory disease, wounds, dental disease, disease of the digestive tract, or is immune-suppressed. The bacteria set up shop and create an infection inside the uterus. This occasionally occurs in a pregnant cat, especially if her health is compromised or she has a miscarriage. In this case, the babies will die and contribute to the severity of the symptoms. Retained placentas or dead fetuses present after a healthy birth can deteriorate and become infected and cause a pyometra as well. The bottom line is that under the right conditions, at any age, any female cat can have a pyometra—even a kitten on her first heat.

Is pyometra life-threatening? Very much so. Since many cats present with few symptoms, it can be easy to be fooled into thinking that pyometra isn’t always a serious condition, but the physiological changes in the body don’t always manifest until a tipping point is reached. A cat with what is essentially an abscess in her abdomen can be fine one day and the next day, tip over the edge into hypoglycemia/seizures, kidney failure, sepsis, shock and death from metabolic changes alone. Also of note is that as the infection progresses, the uterus becomes filled more and more tightly but becomes less and less healthy, exponentially increasing the odds that it will rupture inside her. This is a major danger with a closed pyometra because it’s not draining—occasionally an affected uterus can reach the size of a term pregnancy! If the uterus ruptures, peritonitis (infection of the abdominal cavity) is inevitable and the prognosis becomes very poor.

My cat’s had her spay. Will she be okay now? Most likely. Ideally a cat with a pyometra should have bloodwork, intravenous fluids and hospitalization, but in a situation like a spay/neuter clinic or one where the infection isn’t discovered until the surgery is underway, basic supportive care will still be given—fluids under the skin, antibiotics and pain medication/anti-inflammatories are standard, plus oral or IV dextrose to support blood sugar. It is important to understand that the metabolic changes that occur with pyometra do not reverse immediately after the spay and the cat should be monitored closely for a minimum of a week post-operatively to ensure she doesn’t develop additional symptoms or go downhill suddenly. She is also at risk of infection or opening of her incision secondary to circulating bacteria. Once she has healed completely, there is very little risk of future infection of the uterine stump, as the hormones that caused the pyometra are gone.

Will there be any long-term effects from the pyometra? It's possible. Cats who have had a severe pyometra, especially with shock or sepsis, can have long-term kidney or heart issues, chronic urinary tract infections or illness secondary to a weakened immune system. Regular routine veterinary care and health monitoring is essential. Any cat that has been in heat even once has a higher incidence of breast cancer; this appears to be compounded if the cat has experienced a pyometra. It helps to give her a "kitty breast exam" of all eight mammary glands when you pet her chest and belly—any lump of any size should be seen by a veterinarian immediately.

How can I prevent this in my pets in the future? This one is simple: spay your cats as early as possible. Spaying before the first heat (at three to four months of age) is ideal. If this isn't possible then have the cat spayed at the earliest possible opportunity. There's no healthy reason to allow a cat to have a heat or a litter before spaying—and you may just save a life.

WISH LIST

pee pads	paper towels	toilet paper	copy paper
towels	flat sheets	dry cat food	cat litter
stamps	canned cat food (pate)	dryer sheets	bleach
file folders	laundry detergent	Gift cards to Staples/Petsmart	
flat sheets			

We have a wish list on Amazon and if you shop through Amazon Smile Program, Beckoning Cat Project will get a donation from Amazon. Thanks to all who already use this program.

Please follow us on Facebook

You can schedule an appointment or get more info at www.beckoningcatproject.org



Store Next Door

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Have you stopped by our consignment fundraising store yet or visited the website www.storenextdooronline.com?

If you haven't you are missing out on lots of cool items crafted by our local artisans. A minimum of 20 percent of the sales are donated directly to our low cost spay/neuter clinic.

We have everything from crocheted coasters to canvas nature prints to furniture and everything in between. Remember when you shop at the store you are both supporting the clinic and our local artists.

