

Beckoning Cat Project  
Low Cost Spay/Neuter & Wellness Clinic

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

# Beckoning Cat Mews Fall/Winter 2019

Over **22,000** Cats have now been spayed or neutered!!!!!!!!!!!!

It's been a crazy year and I haven't been able to keep up the newsletter with all that we have going on, but here is an update on our ongoing activities.

Our 2019 Give a Little Poker Trail competition fundraiser was held May 10, 2019 at Michaux State Forest, Fayetteville, PA. It was well attended and everyone had a wonderful time and we raised over \$1200!! Linda Shambaugh walked away with \$100 with the winning poker hand. Thank you to Jane Hunter and her family for all of the time and effort they donate so these fundraisers can happen.

Raise the Region, our area's largest group fundraiser of the year, was held March 13 and 14, 2019. We raised over \$3800 with the generosity of our supporters.

These fundraising events, as well as, donations from the public help to fund our programs and also, allow us to keep our prices where they have been for several years.



## **CAT TALES CAT CAFÉ:**

We are excited to announce the opening of our cat café adjacent to the clinic. This is a platform to showcase adoptable cats from our local shelter. This will also give people who otherwise may not be able to own cats a chance to spend time with cats.

We opened in mid-May and to date have 25 adoptions as of this writing. We have been hosting Bingo with the cats, cat yoga and recently had a Halloween party for the cats, with the cats in costume along with the kids. Admission is \$5 and you can stay as long as you like. Seniors are admitted free on Tuesdays. Our hours are Monday through Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-3.

The café is available to rent for birthday parties and other special events. Please call or message for details.

We are in need of volunteers to man the café. We would like to expand our hours, but need volunteers to do so. Minimum age to volunteer is 18.

We are very excited to add this to our other programs and feel it fits well with our mission statement of community solutions for cats.

## **COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES:**

In 2018 we started a new initiative, Compassionate Communities. This incorporates many of our programs under one umbrella, including our TNR program where boroughs and townships in Lycoming County can participate in our effort to get our community cats spayed or neutered through TNR (trap, neuter, return) to control the cat overpopulation in a humane and effective manner.

To date, Picture Rocks and Montgomery borough have enrolled in the program. If you are a resident of Picture Rocks or Montgomery, you will be able to get a stray or feral cat spayed or neutered, rabies and feline distemper (FVRCP) vaccinated and treated with Revolution (treats fleas, ear mites, round and hook worms) at no cost. You should contact the borough for a voucher and then contact us for more specifics. This program is dependent whether funding is currently available.

We are very hopeful that all of our local communities will eventually participate in this program so we can call Lycoming County a Compassionate Community. Cats will have their left ear tipped with this program, no exceptions. This is not for pets. For more information, contact Kerry at BCP, 570-505-1473.

## FEED A STRAY



With winter on the way, please remember that if you feed, water and shelter that stray that shows up at your door (and we hope you do) that you must get her spayed or neutered to avoid big problems in the spring.

Cats can become sexually active at four months and a Mama cat can become pregnant again two weeks after giving birth.

## SPAY A STRAY



If you have a stray cat, male or female, it is important to get them spayed or neutered. Male cats can roam for miles impregnating multiple females. It is just as important to neuter them as it is to spay females.

Programs to assist with cost of spay/neuter:

**Lycoming County SPCA:** If your household income is \$35,000 a year or less you would qualify for a voucher which covers the cost of the spay/neuter at our clinic. If you don't qualify for the income voucher, \$20 spay/neuter coupons are available. Other programs may be available depending on funding availability. Contact the SPCA for more info. 570-322-4646.

**Clinton County:** Clinton County SPCA TNR program covers all costs for the spay/neuter, rabies vaccine and flea treatment for feral/stray cats at our clinic. Must reside in Clinton County. Contact the SPCA for a voucher. 570-748-4756.

**Snyder, Union and Northumberland Counties:** If your household income is \$35,000 a year or less you can get a voucher for cats only that covers the cost of the spay and rabies vaccine at our clinic. [www.sunpets.org](http://www.sunpets.org) for more info.

**Cherished Cat Rescue Alliance:** Assists with TNR efforts in Snyder, Union and Northumberland Counties as funding is available. [www.cherishedcats.org](http://www.cherishedcats.org) for more info

These are just a few of the many programs available. If you live in a different area, please contact us and we can let you know if there is anything in your location.

# WISH LIST

towels

canned cat food (pate)

dryer sheets

stamps

dry cat food

paper towels

flat sheets

cat litter

gift cards from Staples/PetSmart

pee pads

laundry detergent

## Fun cat facts:

- The little tufts of hair in their ears are called furnishings. These keep dirt out of their ears and help direct sounds. They can rotate their ears 180 degrees.
- Cats have a 9 week gestation period.
- Cats have baby teeth that are replaced with adult teeth around 6 months of age. They teethe just like children and may have a fever during teething and also, may have really bad breath.
- Ailurophobia is the fear of cats (glad I don't have that one)
- When cats chase prey they keep their heads level. When dogs and humans run they bob their heads up and down.
- Cats are crepuscular which means they are most active at dusk and dawn.
- All kittens are born with blue eyes. They begin to change color at approx. 6 weeks.
- The widespread killing of cats in the middle ages led to a rat population explosion. This was one of the main causes of the spread of the Plague.



# Feline Distemper Vaccination

What is it and why is it important?

What is commonly referred to as a “distemper” vaccine for your cat is actually a vaccine that combines protection against **THREE** serious feline diseases.



## Feline Panleukopenia

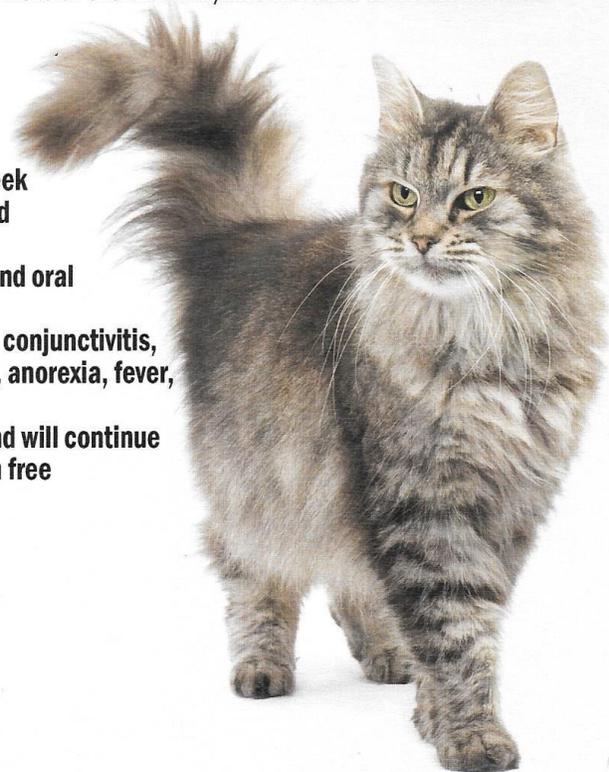
- ↳ Commonly called Feline distemper or Feline parvovirus
- ↳ Highly contagious and life threatening viral disease
- ↳ The virus can survive for over a year in infected environments
- ↳ Certain strains of Canine parvovirus have been shown to cause panleukopenia in cats
- ↳ People can spread the disease between cats through clothing, shoes, or on their skin
- ↳ Infected cats can experience fever, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, extreme dehydration, and often septic shock and death

## Feline Herpesvirus

- ↳ Also known as Feline viral rhinotracheitis
- ↳ Typical symptoms include sneezing, congestion, and nasal and/or eye discharge
- ↳ Can cause permanent eye damage
- ↳ There is no cure
- ↳ All cats that have been infected will become carriers of the disease, and are able to be reactivated as infectious at any time

## Feline Calicivirus (FCV)

- ↳ Highly contagious
- ↳ More than 40 strains of the virus are known
- ↳ Can survive in the environment for up to one week
- ↳ Contaminated objects and people who have had contact with infected cats can spread the virus
- ↳ A major cause of upper respiratory infections and oral disease
- ↳ Symptoms include sneezing, nasal congestion, conjunctivitis, discharge from the nose or eyes, tongue ulcers, anorexia, fever, and lethargy.
- ↳ Half of all infected cats will become carriers and will continue to spread the virus long after they are symptom free



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