



"Fix and Feed Pets in Need"

Project Overview:

Distribute bi-lingual low- and no-cost spay/neuter and other veterinary resource information and provide donated dog and cat food for companion animals (dogs and cats) of low- and no-income residents of Santa Cruz County, by networking cooperatively with established relief organizations and food pantries. Food will be collected at both of the county shelters.

Background:

For 20 years, Project Purr Feral Cat Advocate Organization, an all-volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has funded a low-cost feral cat spay/neuter program at Adobe Animal Hospital in Santa Cruz which is available to all residents of Santa Cruz County regardless of income.

Statement of Problem:

A reason commonly cited for abandoning companion animals or surrendering them to shelters is the inability to feed them due to economic hardship. Rising fuel costs prohibit accessibility to location of existing food banks for residents in need.

Solution:

By collecting and providing donated food for pets of people in need, animal rescue groups and managed feral cat colony caregivers, "Fix and Feed Pets in Need" hopes to prevent the heartbreaking decision of surrendering a cherished companion animal. By combining food distribution and spay/neuter and veterinary information and resources, we hope to humanely and effectively curtail the breeding of unwanted animals, including feral cats. All donated food for dogs and cats, both dry and wet, will be distributed free of charge, without requiring proof of income, to persons in need.

Kind local service organizations recognize the needs of many residents in our community. The "Fix and Feed ~ Pets in Need" program will extend the reach of the safety nets already in place by these respected volunteer organizations. By animal rescue groups partnering with relief organizations, our concerns for both people and animals offer a unique outreach program to reduce suffering by providing compassionate support and bilingual education on low- or no-cost companion animal resources.

Pilot Program:

By streamlined "piggy-backing" on established programs with existing volunteers and through responses generated from a brief survey questionnaire we will determine the initial need. A second survey questionnaire, six months into the pilot program, will help to evaluate strengths and/or weaknesses.

Goals:

We hope to transition from a pilot program to long term sustainability by networking with radio, newspaper, local TV, public service announcements, fliers, newsletters and websites. The objective is to realize healthier companion animals for residents and humane population control through spay/neuter and prevent abandonment of companion animals. Establish bi-lingual informational website with spay/neuter resources, vaccination clinics, and trap-neuter-return programs for humanely controlling feral/stray free roaming cats.

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**We welcome your donations of *unopened* cans and bags of pet food, money and volunteer time. Monetary donations can be made through our website [www.projectpurr.org](http://www.projectpurr.org) using Network for Good or mailed to "Fix and Feed" c/o Project Purr, PO Box 891, Santa Cruz, CA. 95061 831/423-MEOW.**  
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