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Program supports the management of feral or homeless cats *Arapahoe County employees partner with local organizations and residents to manage homeless, feral and stray cats in eastern Arapahoe County*

ARAPAHOE COUNTY, CO --- In 2011, Arapahoe County employees raised almost \$3,250 through various means to support the spay and neutering of more than 100 cats as part of the Feral Cat program. More than \$1,000 came from a bake and plant sale, another \$2,000 as a private donation from the Tiger Tree Foundation and the rest from community donations. These funds will be used to offset the cost to spay/neuter feral cats in the eastern portion of the County.

The project began after zoning inspectors noticed high populations of feral cats (non-domesticated cats that live without human contact) in Byers and Strasburg. Local veterinarians explained that the population of feral cats is growing quickly out of control. In an effort to manage the growing population, the County partnered with the Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance, Divine Feline and Feline Fix to offer discounted services to spay/neuter feral and stray cats.

“We’d like to thank the community for their support of this program, especially Gina Young and Karen Hood for volunteering their time to retrieve the cats,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld.

Cats that are spayed and neutered enjoy a safer and more comfortable existence, free of the mating behaviors that annoy neighbors and threaten feline lives (roaming, fighting, spraying, yowling and repeatedly giving birth). By sterilizing and managing feral cats, countless unwanted kittens are prevented from being born on the streets.

Residents interested in getting spay/neuter services for feral cats in their neighborhood, can call 720-874-6710. Taxpayer dollars are not used for the spay/neutering services. Cash and cat food donations can be made by calling Mary Zaitz, Arapahoe County Community Compliance Officer, at 720-874-6710.

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To download a photo click on the link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/FeralCat/>

Stray_Cat: Support Arapahoe County as it helps homeless, stray and feral cats in eastern Arapahoe County.

Feralcatbakesale: Arapahoe County staff Mary Zaitz and Thea Thompson work a bake and plant sale that raised \$1,000 to help pay for the spaying/neutering of stray cats in Eastern Arapahoe County.