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## **Residents invited to join in effort to manage feral cat population** *Arapahoe County partners with local organizations to educate residents on how to help manage the homeless, feral and stray cats in eastern Arapahoe County*

ARAPAHOE COUNTY, CO. --- Residents of eastern Arapahoe County are invited to attend a workshop on “How Rural Communities Can Help Feral Cats” from 5 - 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 13 at Byers High School in the common area outside the main gym.

The workshop will explain how local residents can get involved with the nationally recognized method for humanely controlling free roaming cat populations – to spay and neuter more homeless cats.

After zoning inspectors began noticing high populations of feral cats (non-domesticated cats that live without human contact) in Byers and Strasburg, Arapahoe County spoke with local veterinarians from the area and found the population of feral cats is growing quickly out of control. In an effort to manage the growing population, the County has partnered with the Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance, Divine Feline and Feline Fix to build awareness of the issue and provide a mobile clinic day with discounted services to spay/neuter feral and stray cats.

“Numerous studies have shown that trap/neuter/return programs are the most reliable method of stabilizing and reducing feral cat populations,” 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 their lives (roaming, fighting, spraying, yowling and giving birth over and over again.) By sterilizing and managing feral cats, countless unwanted kittens are prevented from being born on the streets.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated as taxpayer dollars will not be used for the spay/neutering services. For more information, call 720-874-6711.

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

**Stray\_Cat1:** Help Arapahoe County and the Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance help homeless, stray and feral cats in eastern Arapahoe County.