

**MONTEREY COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

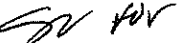
**M E M O R A N D U M**

*Administration*

**DATE:** August 2, 2018

**TO:** Luis Alejo, Chair, Board of Supervisors, District 1  
John Phillips, Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors, District 2  
Simon Salinas, Board of Supervisors, District 3  
Jane Parker, Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors, District 4  
Mary Adams, Board of Supervisors, District 5  
Lew Bauman, County Administrative Officer  
Paul Lewis, County Budget Director  
DeWayne Woods, Assistant County Administrative Officer

**CC:** Veronica Fernandez, Principal Administrative Analyst  
John Ramirez, Director of Environmental Health

**FROM:** Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health 

**SUBJECT:** \$32,050 Grant Application to the Community Foundation for Monterey County for Animal Services "Community Cats" Program

It is the intent of the Health Department to submit a grant application in the amount of \$32,050 for Community Impact Fall 2018 grant funding from the Community Foundation for Monterey County (SFMC) to re-start the successful "Community Cats" Feral Shelter, Neuter, Return (SNR) humane population control program at Monterey County Animal Services. The grant funds will provide durable program equipment, a part-time paid intern to develop and coordinate community volunteers and collaboration with other animal services organizations, and public education and engagement to reduce feral cat populations and euthanasia at Monterey County and City of Salinas animal shelters.

**Background:**

Monterey County Health Department Animal Services Division "Community Cats" Shelter, Neuter, and Return (SNR) humane population control will reduce needless suffering and euthanasia of cats that are feral due to human abandonment. The SNR goal is to reduce the free-roaming feral cat population without resorting to euthanasia, sterilize healthy cats, and return them to their original locale. This is done using humane traps and holding boxes that are safe for cats and veterinarians; pre- and post-surgery care to restore optimal health free of pain, disease, and parasites; and returning sterilized cats to the community, thereby breaking the cycle of population growth.

This grant request is for (1) durable equipment (traps, holding cages, transport boxes = \$19k), (2) a 10-hour per week veterinarian tech intern (\$8,050) to build and coordinate a

20-member crew of volunteers and collaborate with other animal-serving organizations to increase program promotion and impact, and (3) public education messaging (\$5,000) through social media and other affordable formats to encourage community participation. Friends of Community Animal Services (FoCAS) has committed \$5,000 for spay/neuter surgical supplies, and County General Funds provides for a part-time veterinarian to perform surgeries. Expected promotional partners are SPCA, AFRP, Salinas Shelter, and Spay/Neuter Association. These efforts provide a complete package to re-establish the Community Cats program.

The volunteer coordinator, who will be the "engine" behind Community Cats, will be a Central Coast College (CCC) veterinarian program paid intern who will work 10 hours a week to build up MCAS volunteer program from the current 5 to at least 20 regular volunteers; coordinate volunteer Community Cats activities, monitor & enter volunteer activities & messaging efforts into our database system, and with other volunteers, create adoption & fundraising events. MCAS has an existing relationship with CCC that allows their veterinary students with opportunities to fulfill required academic internships. The coordinator will be supervised by Cindy Burnham, who is currently directing both Salinas & MCAS, & who created Salinas Animal Shelter's highly successful volunteer program. The Salinas Shelter has 20 to 25 active volunteers who contribute around 3,500 hours of service per year to help clean cats, walk dogs, do laundry, transport animals to & from the vets, release feral cats, & more. MCAS is resolute in its effort to create a volunteer program of equal or greater impact. The Health Department's public information officer will provide and/or support collaboratively created content, design, & photos for electronic posting, & partners will be encouraged to post fliers in local stores.

The Community Cats program that has been on hiatus since 2013 due to Animal Services' staff shortages. In 2017 MCAS took in 88 feral cats was sadly forced to euthanize all of them because there were no veterinarian services, surgery supplies, or a coordinator and volunteers to run a Community Cats program. MCAS operated a successful SNR program from 2012 to 2013 with a grant from the ASPCA but was forced to discontinue the program in when the grant duration was complete. This action left remaining staff feeling proud of their work but demoralized because of increased euthanasia, & staff have strongly stated they want an SNR program reestablished (Co. of Monterey & City of Salinas Animal Services Consolidation Assessment, 2016). A portion of existing financial pressures will be alleviated by Community Cats program volunteers who will additionally free up MCAS staff for technical duties by taking over feeding, watering, and socializing shelter animals.

Should the grant be awarded, the Health Department will come before the Board of Supervisors for approval. Please call me at 755-4526 should you have questions or require additional information.