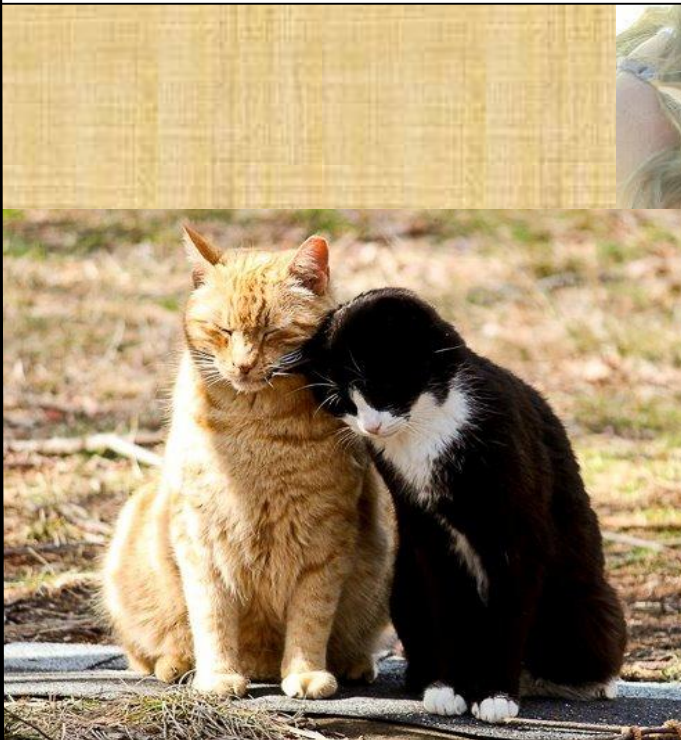




# A Grant Proposal for \$25,000 to Fund a Trap-Neuter-Return Project and Educational Program in Emporium, Pennsylvania

Submitted to: Bryan Kortis

Written By: Gabrielle Sobolewski | December 22, 2016



December 22, 2016

Bryan Kortis  
Program Manager  
PetSmart Charities  
19601 North 27th Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Dear Mr. Kortis,

I am writing on behalf of the Cameron County SPCA to express an interest in implementing a Trap-Neuter-Return program with an additional educational component in the borough of Emporium, Pennsylvania. With a \$25,000 grant from PetSmart Charities, the Cameron County SPCA can humanely control the ever-growing feral and stray cat population of Emporium through spay and neuter efforts, vaccine administration, rehoming of stray cats, and designating select feeding areas. Additionally, we plan to implement an educational component to inform the public of our active efforts and how they can assist in preventing cat overpopulation from reoccurring in the future.

Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR, is the most humane solution to solving the problem of cat overpopulation. Feral cats are baited and trapped in a special cage and are then taken to the Cameron County SPCA (or CCSPCA). There, the cats are transported to the Coudersport Animal Health Center to be spayed or neutered, preventing them from further reproduction within the feral cat colony. In addition to spaying and neutering, the cats are also vaccinated and their left ear is 'tipped,' or specially marked so that they are not trapped again. The cats are then released back to where they were first caught, free to live out their lives. With these TNR methods, the cat colony is prevented from constant breeding, and the population slowly declines in a humane and natural manner.

Our highly trained veterinarian Dr. Ronnie Schenkein and CCSPCA staff are eager and ready to move this proposed TNR program into action. Since this program would involve the entire community, we welcome volunteers and plan to actively engage with the citizens of Emporium in order to educate them on the TNR project as well as our mission to humanely end cat overpopulation.

Mr. Kortis, we are grateful for your consideration in the funding of our project through PetSmart Charities. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by email at [gsobolewski@umass.edu](mailto:gsobolewski@umass.edu) or phone at (508) 755-0521. Additionally, staff at the CCSPCA are available by phone during the day at (814) 486-0101. We look forward to working with PetSmart Charities in progressing towards a world free of needless pet overpopulation.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of our grant application, and I delightfully look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Respectfully yours,  
Gabrielle Sobolewski

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## **1. Statement of the Problem**

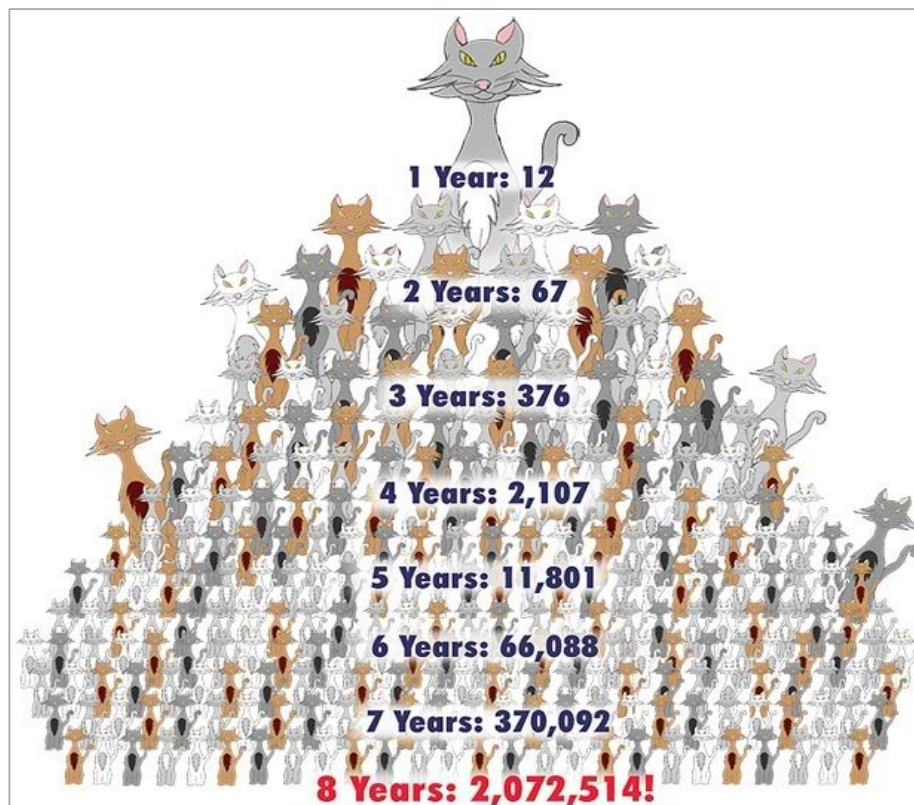
### **1.1 Background and Rationale**

Emporium is a borough located in the northern Cameron County of Pennsylvania. The only animal shelter facility in the county is the Cameron County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or CCSPCA, which is located in Emporium. Lisa Collins, Vice President of the CCSPCA, states that between 25 and 45 calls per month are made regarding stray and feral cats in the surrounding area. Back in 2013, Emporium, PA council members publicly acknowledged that its growing feral cat population was starting to become a serious issue. Approximately 180 cats are estimated to be living around Emporium, PA. That same year, in 2013, the borough's council members first heard its citizens' mounting concerns pertaining to the growing population of feral and stray cats around the community. Consequently, the council members and citizens of Emporium have become solicitous for potential solutions to the escalating problem.

### **1.2 Community Welfare**

The rising number of feral cats in these areas produces three major problems. The first problem pertains to the wellbeing of Emporium's citizens, which accounts for a total of approximately 2,000 people. These individuals are growing increasingly disturbed by the cats' unsettling behaviors; for example, some stray cats have begun utilizing citizens' lawns and back yards as areas for elimination. The cats also seem to enjoy using citizens' porches as wooden scratching posts. Unwanted cat urine and the excessive destruction of personal property leads to unease within the community. The second problem pertains to the environment itself. Emporium is known for its various types of trees,

which, in turn, attract many different types of birds. The feral cats prey upon these birds as an easy meal, along with chipmunks, squirrels, and other small mammals, killing off wildlife. Therefore, a growing population of feral cats means a steadily decreasing wildlife population. The third major issue pertains to how quickly cats can reproduce. According to SpayUSA, an unsprayed female cat, her mate, and her offspring can produce over 350 kittens in just three years, assuming that she has 2 litters a year with 2.8 kittens surviving per litter (see figure 1). With an unsprayed and unneutered colony of feral cats, that number can get out of hand very quickly, especially considering that a cat can start reproducing at as young as six months of age. Therefore, it is important to prevent the problem early on.



*Figure 1: Unsprayed/Unneutered Cat Reproduction Pyramid Over 8 Year Span*

### 1.3 Why TNR

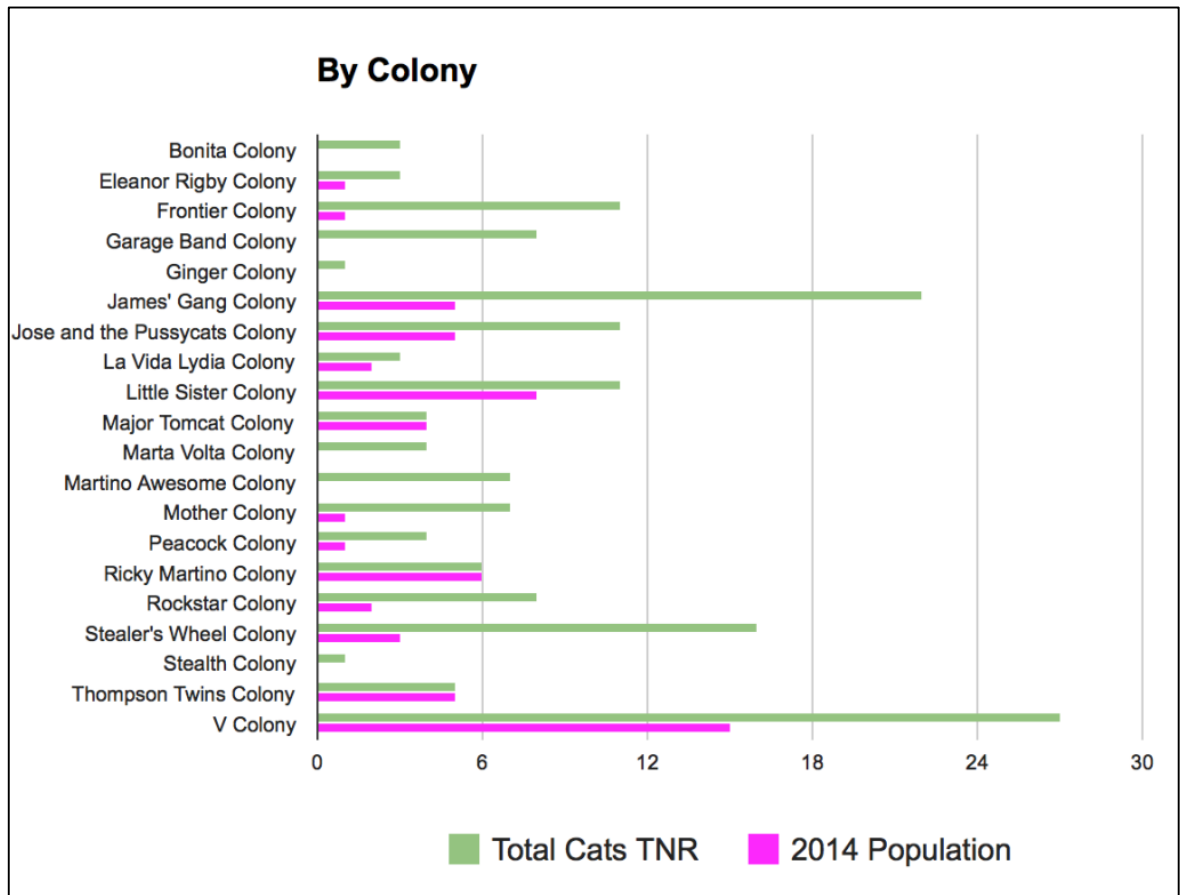
As mentioned above, cats can multiply quickly, especially when taken into consideration that a cat can start reproducing at as young as six months old. Therefore, it is crucial to attend to the problem as soon as possible. Other approaches to managing cat populations, such as Trap-and-Kill and poisoning methods, have proven to be costly, inhumane, and ineffective. The latter in particular has proven to be ineffective since it does not target strictly feral cats—wild animals, pets, and even humans can come into contact with the poison and be adversely affected. As a proposed alternate solution, Trap-Neuter-Return programs have been established to specifically, effectively, and humanely focus on feral cat colonies and directly target the problem of overpopulation by preventing further reproduction. In this manner, no harm is done to the cats and they are free to live out their lives in a natural way. Cities with large TNR programs have statistically shown a decrease in euthanasia rates in animal shelters following the months after TNR implementation. For example, study results from a two-year TNR program stationed at the University of Florida showed a 95 percent decrease in shelter euthanasia rates in the immediate area after TNR and a 30 percent decrease of euthanasia rates in the surrounding non-targeted areas. A similar project in Chicago measured a 67% decrease in almost all of its 20 documented cat colonies after implementing a TNR program (See Figure 2).

### 1.4 Proposed Solution

TNR is the most humane solution to solving the problem of cat overpopulation. Feral cats in and around Emporium will be trapped by volunteers and staff of the Cameron County SPCA (CCSPCA), spayed/neutered at the Coudersport



Animal Health Center so that they can no longer produce offspring, vaccinated, and then returned to the area where they were found. The cost for the implementation of the program is \$25,000, which will account for veterinary costs, surgical costs, the cost of equipment, cat food, and educational programs for the course of one year.



*Figure 2: Chicago TNR Results Show 67% Decrease in Cat Population*

First, the feral cats are baited and trapped in a special cage and are then taken to the CCSPA. From there, the cats are transported to the Coudersport Animal Health Center where they are spayed or neutered, preventing them from further reproduction within the feral cat colony. In addition to spaying and neutering, the cats are also vaccinated and their left ear is ‘tipped,’ or specially marked, so

that they are not trapped again (see figure 3). Feral cats, which are cats who are not interested in socializing with humans, are then released back to the place where they were initially trapped. Stray cats, on the other hand, are cats who have been previously socialized with humans and often have simply lost their homes; so, after being spayed or neutered, friendly strays and kittens may be adopted out into loving homes and families through the CCSPCA while feral cats who are used to living on their own in the outdoors are able to continue to do so after TNR is completed. This way, the growing feral cat population is contained yet respected at the same time, allowing the cat colony to slowly decline in a natural and humane manner.



*Figure 3: Examples of Ear-Tipping Feral TNR Cats*

The TNR program would also implement targeted feeding locations for the feral cat colonies as to move them away from residential areas. In doing so, there will be less opportunity for conflicts between the homeowners of Emporium



and feral cats. Furthermore, reliable feeding locations will reduce hunger among the feral cat colonies and additionally help reduce the amount of wildlife hunted and killed.

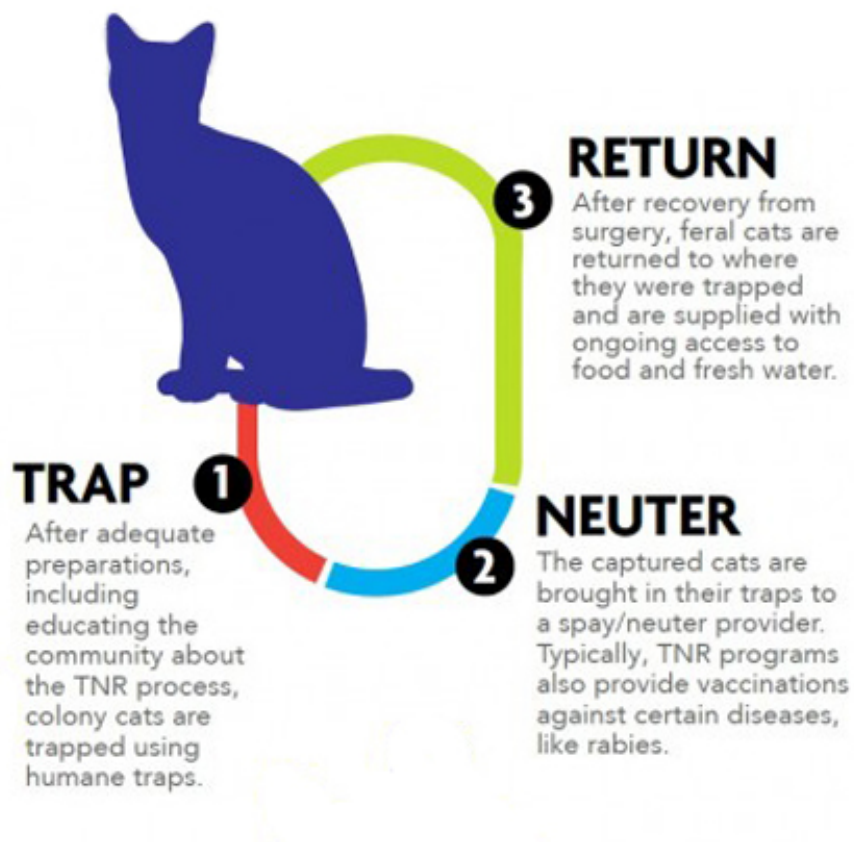
Finally, educational programs will be implemented in order to inform the community how discarding domesticated cats contributes to the rising stray cat population. While feral cat communities are mainly made up of strays, these colonies are also diversified by domestic cats that are unwanted, lost, or had been left behind by their owners. These actions allow for the cat colonies to prosper, especially if the cat had not been previously spayed or neutered. Through educational programs, the selected advocate for the CCSPCA will educate the citizens and families of Emporium about the TNR program, including what they can do to help mediate the issue of cat overpopulation. Pamphlets, visuals, and a slideshow will be prepared for the education sessions.

In addition to controlling pet overpopulation, spaying and neutering the cats reduces mating behavior, including fighting and wandering (i.e. looking for mates). Therefore, TNR successfully controls the unchecked growth of unsterilized animals, improves the health, behavior and quality of life of cats, and resolves the worries of nearby citizens of the surrounding community who no longer have the burden of cats vocalizing at night or leaving ‘markings’ on their private property.

## **2. Statement Request**

The proposed plan will establish a Trap-Neuter-Return project with an educational component for Emporium, PA. The project will materialize through

the work of a qualified veterinarian, volunteer advocates from the surrounding area, and staff members from the Cameron County SPCA, which is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The proposed plan will provide relief to the citizens of Emporium, who have voiced concerns over the increasing population of feral cats within the area. These feral cat colonies, or group of unowned, wild cats, are contributing to stresses within the community by feeding on surrounding wildlife and utilizing private property for their own means. The proposed plan will utilize funding to trap feral cats, pay for their surgical procedures and vaccinations, provide easy access to cat food in the wild, finance educational supplies, and allow a TNR advocate to come and educate the community (see figure 4).



*Figure 4: The Trap-Neuter-Return Solution*

The proposed plan will trap 15 feral cats a month in order to reach the goal for the end of the year of 180 cats, which is the current estimated amount for the number of feral cats around Emporium. The cats will be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and then released back where they were caught. Spaying and neutering sterilizes the cats, preventing unnecessary growth within the colony by preventing further breeding. The vaccinations prevent the spread of disease within the colony; the vaccines are also beneficial on the behalf of other wildlife and even humans if they were to come into contact with a feral cat.

A separate, designated area located in the outskirts of Emporium has been selected to be the feeding ground for the feral cat colony. This lot off of Murrays Mountain Rd. has been vacant for years and is located approximately 2,500 feet outside of Emporium. This will encourage further distance between citizens of Emporium by allowing the cats to peacefully live in a private, secluded, space. Additionally, regular feedings may dissuade the killing of wildlife for food, benefitting the wildlife population of Emporium as well.

The final component for the program is an educational segment. In order to better the community over a long period of time, they need to be educated about our efforts and how they can contribute to the overpopulation solution. We will partner with the national TNR advocacy organization 'Alley Cat Allies' in order to hire a qualified member from their network to come and educate the citizens of Emporium. A portion of the grant will help with the advocate's expenses and educational materials, such as pamphlets.

The proposed budget for the implementation of the program is \$25,000, which would account for all aforementioned veterinary costs, surgical costs,

equipment costs, cat food, and educational programs for over the course of one year. The program may be regarded as a pilot program—once our goal is successfully completed, we will evaluate our efforts and decide whether or not to seek further financial support in order to continue future TNR and educational efforts in the area for continued success.

### **3. Description of Proposed Work**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

1. *Trap, Sterilize, and Vaccinate*—The project will use 15 Advantek GFA Catch & Release Live Animal Traps to catch 15 feral cats the first weekend of every month. The number of cats living in and around Emporium, PA is estimated to be approximately 180 felines. Therefore, by trapping 15 cats each month, we will reach our projected goal by the end of the year. The cats will then be sterilized and vaccinated at the Coudersport Animal Health Center to prevent the spread of diseases. The cats will then be returned to where they were first captured with the help of volunteers. The veterinarian working with the CCSCPA is committed to the TNR project, and they will receive a monthly stipend of \$450 for helping out the program. All spay and neuter, vaccine, and surgical expenses will be paid through the grant. The 10 CCSPCA staff and volunteers who have also committed to the project will help with baiting the cages, transporting the cats to the facility, and then returning them to the same spots they were originally found (See figure 5).

2. *Rehoming*—Those cats that are not feral but strays (cats that have been socialized with humans) will be sterilized, vaccinated, and placed up for

adoption through the CCSPCA. Kittens that are old enough to live on their own may also be similarly placed up for adoption through the CCSPCA.



*Figure 5: A live animal trap baits a feral cat for a TNR project*

3. *Targeted Feedings*—The volunteers will additionally help with weekly, targeted feedings to encourage the movement of the feral cat colony to the outskirts of town. The designated feeding place will be in a vacant, empty lot off of Murrays Mountain Road. Forty-five large pet bowls will be purchased and placed in the lot. The feedings will be scheduled and followed every Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week. Five 16-pound bags of Meow Mix Original Choice Dry Cat Food will be purchased at the start of every month in order to sustain the colony. At least 2-3 volunteers will accompany each trip to help with the labor as well as 1 CCSPCA staff member to oversee operations. Groups will be made at the start of the project to accommodate individuals' personal schedules.

	<b>Volunteers/CCSPCA Staff:</b>	<b>Day of the Week:</b>
<b>Group 1</b>	2-3 Volunteers / 1+ Staff Member(s)	Mondays
<b>Group 2</b>	2-3 Volunteers / 1+ Staff Member(s)	Wednesdays
<b>Group 3</b>	2-3 Volunteers / 1+ Staff Member(s)	Fridays

*Figure 6: Feral Cat Colony Feeding Schedule*

4. *Education*— An educational segment to the proposed TNR program is crucial to its success. In order to better the community over a long period of time, the community needs to be aware and educated about the ongoing TNR efforts. Citizens also should be aware of how they contribute to cat overpopulation and how to prevent it. For example, deciding to abandon a housecat will cause it to become a stray. If the pet cat was not spayed or neutered, then he or she may contribute to the We will partner with the national TNR advocacy organization ‘Alley Cat Allies’ in order to hire a qualified member from their network to come and educate the citizens of Emporium. A portion of the grant will help with the advocate’s expenses and educational materials, such as pamphlets.

### 3.2 Timeframe

<b>Month (2017)</b>	<b>Objectives + Total Cats Neutered/Spayed</b>
<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase 15 TNR cages</li> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- Purchase 45 bowls for food</li> <li>- Assemble CCSPCA volunteers and staff to make a feeding and trapping schedule</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Total Cats Fixed: 15</b></li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hire TNR Advocate and begin planning educational program; purchase pamphlets and necessary materials</li> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 30</b></li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Begin implementing community educational component</li> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 45</b></li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 60</b></li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 75</b></li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 90</b></li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 105</b></li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 120</b></li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 135</b></li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 150</b></li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 165</b></li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assess the year's pilot TNR project for further measures to ensure continued success</li> <li>- Purchase 5 bags of dry cat food</li> <li>- <b>Total cats fixed: 180</b></li> </ul>

The beginning of the year marks an important part of the timeframe, because it is where a majority of crucial purchases for the program will be made—i.e. 15 TNR trapping cages, 45 food bowls, educator contract and supplies, etc. Group 1 (see feeding schedule in figure 5) will trap 15 feral cats every first Sunday of the month during their feeding excursion. The cats will then be spayed/neutered at the Coudersport Animal Health Center that following Monday. The cats will recover at the shelter the following Tuesday and then be released back to where they were initially found on Wednesday with Group 2.

#### **4. Description of Available Facilities**

The Cameron County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is located in Emporium, Pennsylvania and is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Due to the lack of veterinary facilities within the shelter itself, however, the CCSPCA will work together with Coudersport Animal Health Center located at 24 Kio Road in Coudersport, PA. Coudersport Animal Health Center is a fully equipped veterinarian facility that has partnered with other feral cat and low-income spay/neuter programs in the past, including ‘Teacher’s Pet Rescue’ and the ‘Potter County Animal Assistance project.’ They are located at 24 Kio Rd. and can be reached at (814) 274-0857 for any questions regarding their facility.

## 5. Qualifications of Personnel

### 5.1 Staff

Dr. Ronnie Schenkein

**Veterinarian** - *Coudersport Animal Health Center*

- Dr. Ronnie Schenkein received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Cornell University in 1980. She practiced ‘Small Animal Medicine & Surgery’ at the Chittenango Animal Hospital for two years and two years at Burrstone Animal Hospital before opening up her own veterinarian animal health care business, Coudersport Animal Health Center, in 1989.

George Sowers

**CCSPCA President**

- George Sowers is the Pennsylvania State Dog Law Enforcement Officer and the PA State Certified Humane Officer. He is the head of the CCSPCA in Emporium, PA, and he is directly involved with the community and the issues surrounding stray animals—particularly feral and stray cats.

Lisa Collins

**CCSPCA Vice President**

- Lisa Collins is the Vice President and spokesperson for the Cameron County SPCA. She is deeply devoted to the wellbeing of both animals and individuals in the community, and is very dedicated to finding a humane solution to the feral cat overpopulation in the area.

Brianna Lovell

**Associate Director of Community Engagement & Events – *Alley Cat Allies***

- Brianna Lovell is in charge of planning and delivering countless conferences, workshops, webinars, and community events for Alley Cat Allies, an organization dedicated to bettering the lives of homeless cats. According to her bio, Brianna believes that everyone has the power to create real change, and she is committed to doing whatever it takes to help people help cats. She would make a perfect addition to our project as community educational facilitator for our TNR project.



*Figure 8: Brianna Lovell of Alley Cat Allies*

## 5.2 Volunteers

In addition to staff, members of the CCSPCA volunteer committee and other community individuals who are interested in getting involved with the TNR project will be provided with the necessary training and information by the CCSPCA staff. Following preparation, volunteers will be able to help out with the trapping, feeding, and releasing of feral cats.

## 6. **Budget**

The budget for this TNR 1-year pilot program will be entirely covered by the PetSmart Charities grant for \$25,000, which will account for veterinary costs, surgical costs, the cost of equipment, cat food, and educational programs for over the course of one year. It costs \$60 to spay or neuter a single cat, and it costs \$25 to vaccinate a cat. Therefore, at \$1,275 a month, fifteen cats can be safely spayed, neutered, vaccinated, and returned back to their colonies (See Figure 10). Dr. Ronnie Schenkein, the participating veterinarian, will receive a stipend of \$450 a month for her donated time and skills in the program. Brianna Lovell, who will be placed in charge of community education and engagement within the program, will be paid \$3,000 to head start communal interest and participation in Emporium for the TNR program. She will additionally receive \$250 to spend on materials for her awareness efforts. Five 16-pound bags of dry cat food will be purchased every month to sustain the feral cat community and encourage movement away from homeowners' property. Lastly, one-time purchases of 15 cages and 45 bowls will be made, totaling \$450 (see Figure 9). Calculating the costs together, the total grand sum for the operation of this TNR project comes to \$25,000 (See Figure 11).

<i>Item</i>	<i># Needed</i>	<i>Total Price</i>
<b>Advantek GFA Catch &amp; Release Live Animal Traps (\$15/ea.)</b>	15	\$225
<b>Large Food Bowls (\$5/ea.)</b>	45	\$225
<b>CCSPCA Educator</b>	1	\$3,000
<b>CCSPCA Education Materials</b>	N/A	\$250
<b>One-Time Total.....\$3,700</b>		

*Figure 9: One-Time Purchases*

<i>Item</i>	<i># Needed</i>	<i>Total Price</i>
<b>Veterinarian</b>	1	\$450
<b>Spay/Neuter of 15 cats (\$60/ea.)</b>	15	\$900
<b>Vaccinations for 15 cats (\$25/ea.)</b>	15	\$375
<b>Dry Cat Food (\$10 for 16-lb bag)</b>	5	\$50
<b>Monthly Total.....\$1,775</b>		
<b>Cumulative Annual Amount.....\$21,300</b>		

*Figure 10: Monthly Budget*

<b>Cumulative Annual Monthly Amount</b>	<b>One-Time Total</b>	<b>Project Total</b>
<b>\$21,300</b>	<b>\$3,700</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

*Figure 11: Total Sum for TNR Project Needed*



## 7. Summary

### 7.1 Benefits of the Project

The Emporium TNR project will benefit a wide variety of groups. First and foremost, it will benefit the wellbeing of Emporium's feral cat colonies.

Through TNR implementation, inhumane and barbaric animal control methods such as Trap-and-Kill and poisoning techniques will not be used. Instead, the cats will be allowed to continue their way of life; simply a life without kittens. Cats also benefit from this proposed TNR program in three other ways: First, they are provided with scheduled feeding. Therefore, they no longer have to search and scavenge for food. Second, vaccines help decrease the spread of infectious diseases, such as rabies. Third, stray cats that had been abandoned are given the chance to find new homes through adoption.

The citizens of Emporium will also greatly benefit from the TNR program. The unsettling mating behaviors from feral cats, such as 'marking' territory with urine, will decline as more cats are spayed and neutered, consequently reducing the biological need to find a mate. The designated feeding areas will also move the cats away from community members, easing tension on both ends. Cat vaccination also decreases the potential for disease outbreaks within the community.

Lastly, the project will benefit the wildlife of Emporium, which has been in decline ever since the feral cat population soared. Therefore, the squirrels, chipmunks, and various birds of Emporium, PA will be spared thanks to targeted feeding in a vacant lot 2,500 feet away from the borough's

circumference.

## 7.2 Distinction from Similar Proposals

This program is unique because it provides a solution to various issues at once, not just a single issue. As mentioned above, the implementation of this TNR program will better the welfare of feral cats, reduce anxiety among the community, and allow the Emporium wildlife population to repopulate. Additionally, this project is targeted for a smaller community, whereas other projects of this kind are often large-scale. This presents the opportunity for the program to make a large difference for a small town, which will truly leave a lasting impact for many years to come. Furthermore, the additional component of stimulating community engagement in the TNR implementation process is unique in itself. By engaging and educating the community in the program's TNR efforts, more volunteers may become involved and the efforts to stop cat overpopulation may spread to nearby areas with similar issues. Education is a key component of the process to prevent this issue from reoccurring in the future.

## 7.3 Reassertion of Need

Aside from Trap-Neuter-Return, there are no other realistic and humane efforts to control cat overpopulation. If the problems continue to grow within the community, drastic efforts may be taken by community members. For example, homeowners might place poison on their property to kill off unwanted cats, or even place deadly traps. These methods are not only inhumane to the feral and stray cats, but they can also negatively affect other forms of wildlife such as squirrels, raccoons, skunks and possums. The next

inhumane method would be to Trap-and-Kill the cats, which is violent and unnecessary. Lastly, even calling animal control would place the feral cats in an unfair situation, since they have not been socialized with humans. This makes them ‘unadoptable’ in shelters, and they are euthanized, or killed by lethal injection. Aside from TNR, all of the other proposed methods for controlling cat overpopulations are cruel and merciless. By resorting to the alternative methods, feral cats are criminalized for simply being born, which is extremely cold-hearted.

In contrast, implementing a TNR program in the heart of Emporium is humane and respects both its citizens and the feral cats, allowing for peaceful co-inhabitation by addressing the roots of the overpopulation problem head-on. The project will address all aspects of the issues, starting with the prevention of procreation, lowering risk of disease through vaccinations, and moving the colonies away from the citizens and homeowners of Emporium.

#### 7.4 Urge to Action

The implementation of a Trap-Neuter-Return program in Emporium, PA will respectfully provide a solution to a quickly growing problem within the county. By utilizing the resources and knowledge of the Cameron County SPCA staff, Coudersport Animal Health Center Veterinarian Dr. Ronnie Schenkein, caring volunteers, and community organizer and fellow cat lover Brianna Lovell, the TNR program is bound to succeed and make a world of a difference for the community and all of its inhabitants. The project will do so by:

- Trapping feral cats around Emporium, PA on the first Sunday of every month
- Spaying, neutering, vaccinating, and ear-tipping the cats at the Coudersport Animal Health Center before releasing them where they were found
- Placing socialized stray cats and kittens up for adoption for the chance to be re-homed
- Feeding feral cats 3 times a week on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in the vacant lot just outside of Emporium's borders
- Educating the public about TNR programs and the importance of spaying and neutering their pets

Within a years' time, all these steps will lead to the approximately 180 feral cats of Emporium, PA to be safely assisted through the proposed TNR program and safely released back into their colonies. If deemed necessary for continued success, further funding for the consecutive year will be applied for to continue feral cat overpopulation victories in and around Emporium. With every educated person who joins the TNR movement, we can successfully tackle the national problem of pet overpopulation one humane trap at a time, starting with the very borough of Emporium, PA.

## **Appendix A**

### **Bibliography**

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## **Appendix B**

### **Photo Sources**

Cover page: <http://www.gwdhumanesociety.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/05/Community-Cat.jpg>

<http://www.lifewithcats.tv/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Cats4Cats.jpg>

<http://cdn.onegreenplanet.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/2014/07/TNR.jpg>

Figure 1: <http://joelnaprill.com/faacs/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/CatPyramid1.png>

Figure 2: <https://www.ward1.org/services/cats-in-my-yard/>

Figure 3: <http://www.wellmindedpets.com/blog/2015/4/11/understanding-ear-tipping-in-feral-cats>

Figure 4: [https://www.petsmartcharities.org/sites/default/files/styles/large/public/TNR\\_infographic.jpg?itok=2r11pfdl](https://www.petsmartcharities.org/sites/default/files/styles/large/public/TNR_infographic.jpg?itok=2r11pfdl)

Figure 5: <https://i.ytimg.com/vi/Q1rVlXslmOc/maxresdefault.jpg>

Figure 8: <http://www.alleycat.org/resources/biography-brianna-lovell-outreach-and-events-manager/>