

PRESS RELEASE Feb. 19, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Haywood Spay/Neuter Receives Grant for Trap-Neuter-Return

The Binky Foundation’s mission is “Helping People Help Animals” and they recently awarded Haywood Spay/Neuter a First Steps grant for one-time purchase of equipment for its Trap-Neuter-Return Program. The grant will be used for purchasing:

Xtend Max Universal Scanner which will allow the TNR team to check for a microchip without endangering themselves or alarming the cat too much. *This scanner can be held above a trapped cat and if a microchip is found, the cat can immediately be released rather than having to go to the clinic and back when it is already fixed.*

Feral Cat Boxes. The TNR team has a holding area for cat returned from surgery but not ready for immediate release to the site from which they came. *A feral cat box allows the cat to be safely removed from the trap and placed in a large kennel until it is ready to be rehomed.*

Ultra-Sonic Cat Repellents. The TNR team sometimes comes across neighbors who trap our previously fixed cats and take them to the shelter because they come into their yards. They lure them with food in a trap, and hand them over to shelter. The TNR team then must retrieve them as they are un-adoptable and would otherwise be euthanized and return them to their site. *The team will now be able to offer these neighbors an alternative to keep cats away which won’t cost them anything.*

200 Found.org Microchips. Many county residents the TNR team tries to help with their growing colonies just do not want the cat’s ear tipped which is required under the terms of the program. *For those who may refuse help because of this, the team can now offer them a free microchip instead.* A free chip may encourage them to proceed with the TNR program. Also, a microchip in kittens instead of an ear tip may help them get adopted down the road.

To date Haywood Spay/Neuter has Trapped Neutered and Returned (and vaccinated) over 6,000 “community/feral cats” which has made a serious impact on the intake number of cats to the county shelter. When the TNR program began in 2009, 1811 unwanted cats entered the county shelter, in 2017 the number was 701. Most of these cats are just not adoptable and if taken to the shelter would be euthanized. Haywood Spay/Neuter is still receiving calls just about every day from people asking for help with stray cats. It is estimated that there are still 3-4,000 “community cats” wandering around, reproducing and causing disturbances with “mating and territory” rituals in the county. Donna Murray, TNR coordinator, states “The team tries to respond to as many calls for help as possible, but the public needs to understand it not only takes time to set up to trap at a new site but a lot of patience. Those of us who do this work are dedicated to what we do. But we could sure use some more volunteers to help out with this worthwhile effort.”