

Lee County Hosts a Free Spay/Neuter and Vaccination Day for Community Feral Cats in Honor of National Feral Cat Day

Fort Myers, Florida, 9/18/09—In honor of National Feral Cat Day Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS) is providing free spay/neuter and vaccinations for Lee County community feral cats on October 16, 2009. This event is being held in honor of National Feral Cat Day, the official kickoff for a year-long educational program about the importance of humane treatment and programs for feral cats. Normally LCDAS requests a \$20 per cat donation to offset the cost of the surgery and vaccinations. Space is limited and appointments are necessary. To schedule an appointment, call 533-9234 or 533-9236.

University of Florida Veterinarians estimate there are currently 98,000 feral community cats living in Lee County. The agency's previous program of trap, euthanize, and eradicate proved to be ineffective in reducing the feral cat population as prolific breeding continued to escalate. Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) has proven to be a more humane, non-lethal and successful program to reduce the feral community cat population. Sterilization ends the breeding cycle and the nuisance behaviors such as mating, yowling, fighting and roaming. The TNR program, available through LCDAS, ensures that people and feral cats can live together peacefully.

LCDAS is enlisting the support and dedication of the local community to:

- Assist with the year-round trapping and transport for sterilization of feral cats that residents currently may be feeding. Interested residents should contact LCDAS at 533-9234 or 533-9236 to provide assistance or to make an appointment.
- Mail a tax-deductible donation to the Animal Care Trust Fund, 5600 Banner Dr., Ft. Myers, FL 33912 to help provide veterinary care for sick and injured felines.
- Donate dry and canned cat food to help feed feral community cats in Lee County.

The community's support and dedication will greatly improve the lives of many cats and help to ensure a safe and compassion community for Lee County. For more information about these programs and services please log onto www.leelostpets.com.