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Cat Adoption Team Receives \$5,000 Grant to Continue Offering Subsidized Spay/Neuter Surgeries for Cats/Kittens

(Mar. 3, 2008) — The Leslie G. Ehmann Charitable Trust awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Cat Adoption Team (CAT) to fund subsidized (low-cost) spay/neuter surgeries for cats and kittens. CAT received the \$5,000 grant on February 27, the day after Spay Day USA.

Throughout the month of February, CAT hosted its first annual February Feline Fix-a-Thon, offering subsidized spay/neuter surgeries to cat owners in financial need. The cost to the client was \$10 per neuter and \$20 per spay. At the end of the month, 176 owned cats were sterilized, preventing well over 500 kittens from being born this spring. Cat owners from the seven counties surrounding Portland, including Marion and Clark, were able to have their cats fixed at a manageable price.

“The clients who were able to take advantage of the Fix-a-Thon prices told us this was truly the only way they could do the right thing,” remarked CAT Shelter Manager Rhonda Weiss. “There are still 25 cat owners on the waiting list. With this grant, we will be able to continue to offer the subsidized pricing and get more fertile cats and kittens altered before they begin breeding.”

In 2007, the Cat Adoption Team’s full service onsite feline veterinary hospital performed 1,465 spay surgeries and 1,106 neuters, including 414 surgeries for the public and other animal welfare organizations. In 2008, with funding provided by the Ehmann Trust, CAT expects to increase the number of spay/neuter surgeries performed for the public to more than 525. “CAT will be able to increase doctor and support staff hours to accommodate the additional appointments throughout the year,” said Weiss.

The newly formed Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP) estimates there are 65,000 fertile owned cats in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, and Clark counties alone. This is in addition to the estimated 97,000 feral or stray cats who contribute to the cat overpopulation crisis in the Portland metro area. Last year, more than 26,000 cats and kittens entered animal shelters in the Portland area. Sadly, over 13,000 of these lives were lost as shelters had to euthanize cats and kittens for various reasons, not the least of which was to control shelter population.

“We can’t adopt our way out of this crisis,” commented CAT Executive Director Britta Bavaresco. “Offering subsidized spay/neuter surgeries to cat owners in financial need will decrease the number of unwanted cats who are brought to shelters, where half are euthanized.”

Visit www.catadoptionteam.org’s spay/neuter resource page for more information on low-cost alternatives.

The Cat Adoption Team (CAT) is the Pacific Northwest's largest non-profit, feline-only shelter with its own full service veterinary hospital onsite. CAT's mission is to work with the community to save the lives of homeless, sick, and injured cats and kittens by offering shelter, adoption, foster, hospice, spay/neuter, and veterinary services to end needless feline euthanasia. CAT will find homes for over 3,200 felines this year. As a 501(c)(3) publicly-supported charity, CAT relies on the support of the public and generous volunteers.

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