

(Contributed by Lydia Besos & Lisa Pisano)

WE NEED YOUR HELP

DEAR CARING NEIGHBORS,

We desperately need your help. As you are aware, “we” have a stray cat problem on our block. Spring will soon be upon us and that problem will be multiplying.

Through some research and dedication, we have found an answer to “our” problem, unfortunately not a solution, which would be to place these poor animals in homes. Those of us, who have tried, know how hard to impossible that is, though we are continuing to try.

A few of the animal shelters in our area have recommended we take the following action: Buy a humane animal trap; contact Muffins (a humane animal control organization); and purchase reduced spay/neutering certificates, (order form and participating vet list attached).

We are not asking for your help in catching these cats or for your help transporting them. Though, if you can volunteer a few hours every here and there, that would be a great help. All we are asking is for a small donation of \$5.00 or more, if you can afford it, to help us with the cost. There are approximately up to **[place the number of cats in your colony here]** cats that roam “our” block. As you can imagine, this can be very costly for just **[place the number of people who are doing this work here]** people, even at a reduced rate, plus the cost of the mandatory vaccinations.

Whether you are an animal lover or not, we, as a community, have a responsibility to each other and the betterment of our community. Below is a list of the benefits of our cause. I’m sure you will find several things that will impact you personally:

- The number of stray cats will not increase.
- Less cats digging up your grass.
- Less, if any, fleas from the grass brought into your home—we are all subject to this problem, whether we have pets of our own or not.
- No more sick, suffering kittens.
- Noise reduction – no more crying cats in heat at all hours of the night.
- Less of a chance for bringing in feline aids and feline Leukemia into your home.
- Spaying and Neutering diminishes the strength of the smell of their urine by more than half (something which would please all of us).
- They will not be attracting any more cats to our block because the females won’t be give off the “I’m in heat” scent, allowing us to continue keeping the cat population to a minimum.

You may not be aware that currently there are **[place the number of pregnant females in your colony here]** females that are pregnant already. Help us to put an end to this madness.

If you can find it in your heart to help (or feel this cause will benefit you) please contact **[place your name, contact phone number and time to call you here]**.

This problem affects all of us in one way or another. We all live here. Together, we can make a change.