

Taos Feral Feline Friends



*A 501-(c)3 Charitable Association
For The Welfare of Cats*

2016

Annual

Report

Taos Feral Feline Friends

2016 Annual Report

Table of Contents

A Letter from the President and Founder

The Mission / Problems and Solutions

By The Numbers

Comprehensive Cat Community Plan

Shelter Program

Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) Program

Pays to Help Strays Program

Low Income Caregiver Assistance Programs

2016 Financial Statement

Financial Overview

Income Statement

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Expenses by Program

2017 Program Budgets

Appendices

1. Frequently Asked Questions
2. Association Officers, Quick Facts, and Contact Information



**“Paws For The Cause”
Walk-a-thon**

Taos Feral Feline Friends



*A 501-(c)3 Charitable Association
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A Letter from the President and Founder

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In last year's annual report, I discussed the importance of TFFF's mission statement, the philosophy behind it and how it guides our decisions concerning animal welfare (please see the News and Views page of our website for a reprint of my comments). While the mission statement is truly the foundation of TFFF, there is another critical element of our organization that shapes the direction of our efforts to help cats. It's nothing new... it's been a part of our philosophy from the very beginning and been mentioned in every annual report since 2006. I'm referring to the somewhat ungainly named, "Comprehensive Cat Community Plan" or CCCP.

Whereas the mission statement sets forth our guiding principles, the CCCP provides direction to determine what specific activities and programs TFFF should implement in order to fulfill its mission. The goal of the CCCP is to focus TFFF on the least-served areas of feline welfare in the greater Taos area. The CCCP specifies that TFFF will annually undertake a comprehensive review of the current issues facing cats, the types and impacts of programs offered by other animal-oriented organizations in the community, the types and impacts of current TFFF programs and the resources available to TFFF. In practice, these evaluations occur throughout the year whenever the feline welfare environment changes. Animal welfare resources are very limited in poorer communities such as Taos County. Through the CCCP evaluation, TFFF identifies feline needs not being met in the Taos area that we can effectively help given our own limited resources.

An old example of the CCCP in practice was when the Taos County community shelter suddenly closed in 2007 and TFFF accepted dozens of socialized cats into its shelter, despite our focus on feral cat rescue. Another example was when TFFF realized that some Trap, Neuter and Return clients were unable to feed their feral cat colonies, calling into question whether merely spaying and neutering of feral cats was helping them survive. In response, the Low Income Food Assistance program, providing free cat food to qualifying feral cat caregiver, was initiated. More recently, in 2014, we became aware that some cats in foster care were not being spayed or neutered, giving birth to litters of homeless cats while in foster care and were being adopted into permanent homes before spay/neuter. Concerned that foster care might become a breeding ground for homeless cats, TFFF expanded eligibility for its Pays To Help Strays program to spay/neuter and vaccinate cats held in foster care, even when the foster care arrangement was part of some other organization's program.

A Letter from the President and Founder (continued)...


For this year's CCCP evaluation, TFFF notes that, in addition to TFFF and Stray Hearts (the community shelter), there are, at least four other animal welfare groups actively working to benefit cats, offering a variety of programs never seen before. Given the continually strained animal welfare budgets of our local governments, Taos is fortunate to have such a wide array of self-funding charities willing and able to help cats. Some of these programs just commenced in 2017, including, for the first time ever, a Trap, Neuter and Return alternative to our TNR program. At this very early stage, I can't predict how long or how effectively these new programs will operate, or how much they duplicate what TFFF offers. Consequently, we have not modified any of our core programs (Shelter, TNR, Pays To Help Strays) going into 2017. But looking beyond 2017, I promise that we will remain true to the principles of our CCCP and adjust our programs as needed in order to target, as always, the critical unmet needs of Taos-area cats.

Turning to our own recent developments, I am thrilled to announce that PetSmart Charities®, as of January 2017, renewed its grant funding for our Spay/Neuter Taos partnership. The new grant will fund spay/neuter and rabies vaccinations for about 300 cats over the next twelve months at no cost to the community and provide an advertising allowance to help us inform the community of these valuable services. The program, which began January 2011, was designed by PetSmart and TFFF as an intensive effort to spay/neuter homeless cats in the areas of densest population. It has proven to be tremendously successful in reducing the number of unaltered homeless cats, lowering intakes at Stray Hearts, and, best of all, in eliminating feline euthanasia for space at Stray Hearts. As the largest funder of animal welfare in North America, PetSmart Charities entertains thousands of funding proposals from hundreds of worthy organizations. We are honored they have chosen to support us.

I must thank two of our officers who have retired after serving TFFF for many years. Pamela Matas (2010 – 2016), who served as the organization's secretary for three years and treasurer since 2013, donated countless hours fundraising and procuring supplies. Her critical insights and charming wit cannot be replaced. Patricia Iko (2013 – 2016), who served as secretary her entire term, was a practical businesswoman whose contacts throughout Taos helped TFFF especially during walkathon season. Pat, a hard-worker whose family often joined her in volunteering for TFFF, will be greatly missed. Filling these positions with individuals of similar quality was a challenge, but I'm happy to say that TFFF has enlisted two very capable, long time volunteers to serve as officers beginning June 2016: Raeann Rasmussen, with over 12 years of experience as a veterinary technician, will be our new treasurer. Edna Structman, an artist and businesswoman with many years of experience in retail sales, will be our new secretary. I've worked with, and admired, Raeann and Edna for many years so I'm very optimistic about their new roles at TFFF.

Finally, I thank the entire Taos community, private donors, businesses and local foundations, for sustaining TFFF throughout the years. With the much appreciated assistance of PetSmart Charities and the blossoming of new feline welfare options in Taos, I expect to see major progress towards our mission this year.

Sincerely yours,


Leanne Mitchell, President and Founder

2/21/17

Taos Feral Feline Friends

The Mission - Problems and Solutions



The Shelter

The Mission

Prevent the inhumane treatment of stray and feral cats in Northern New Mexico

Stop unnecessary euthanasia of stray and feral cats.

Reduce the population of stray and feral cats

Feral Cat Problems and Solutions

Problem: Feral cats are not adoptable as pets.

Solution: TFFF finds homes where they are appreciated as outdoor or barn cats.

Comment: Finding homes for ferals takes time. Most shelters don't like to house animals for extended periods, but we will keep them for as long as it takes to find a home.

Problem: Feral cats are wild animals that do poorly in traditional caged shelters.

Solution: TFFF operates a cage-less, but secure 814 sq. foot indoor facility where ferals are free to roam and play.

Comment: Our shelter also features three fenced - in outdoor play areas.

Problem: Feral cats are over-populated and are a nuisance.

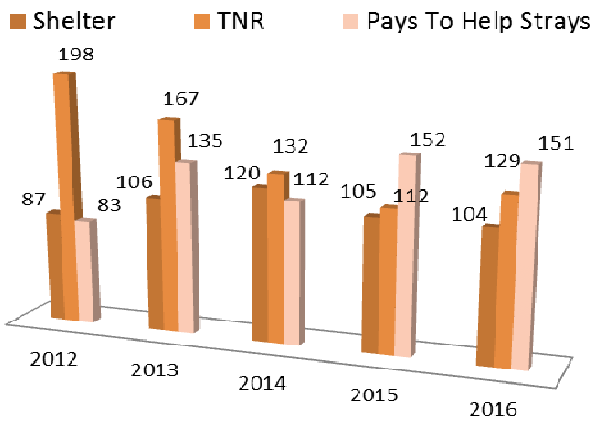
Solution: TFFF sterilizes all cats before adoption and offers free Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) services - the only humane method of population control.

Comment: Studies have shown that TNR is more effective than euthanasia in controlling outdoor cat populations.

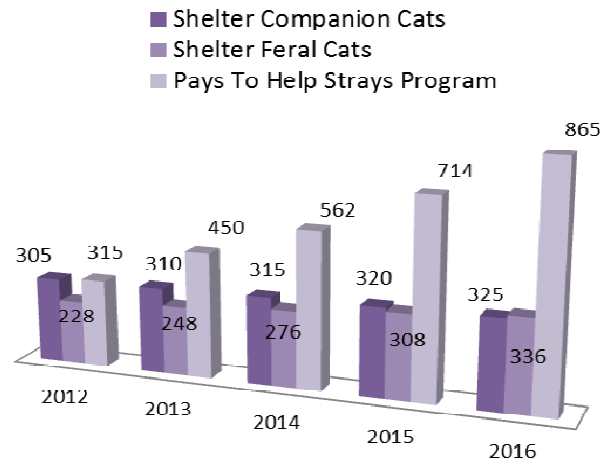
Taos Feral Feline Friends

By the Numbers

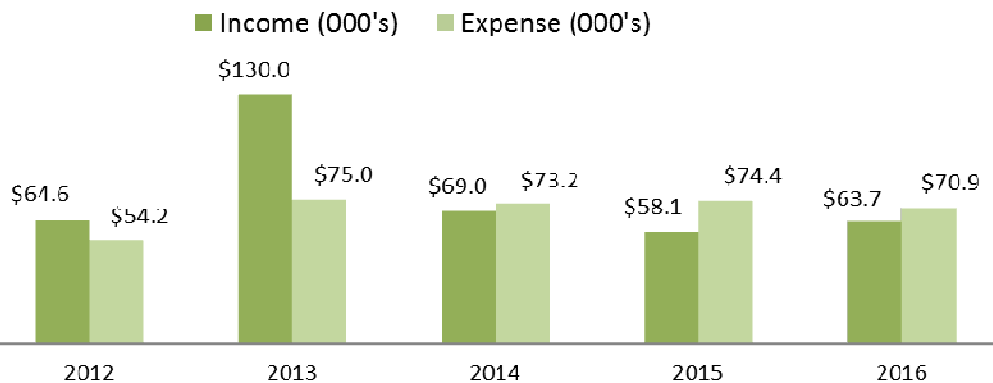
Number of Cats Aided by Year



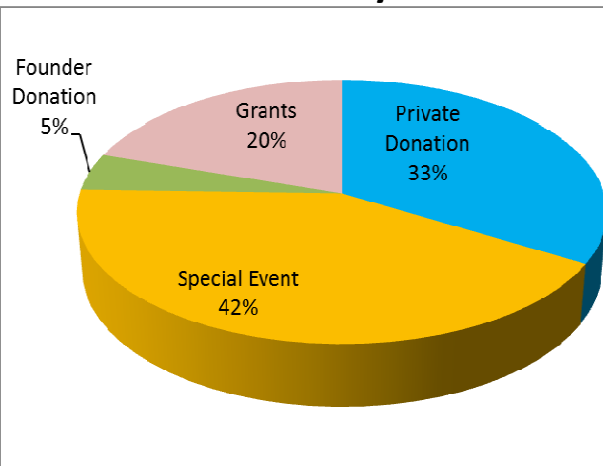
Cumulative Adoptions



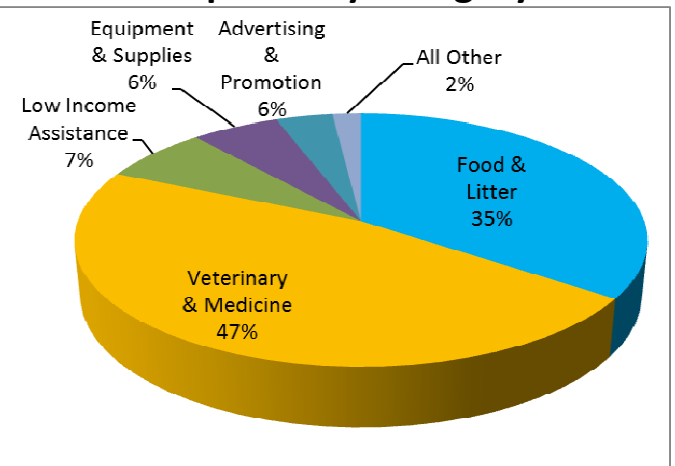
Income and Expense by Year



2016 Income by Source



2016 Expense by Category



Taos Feral Feline Friends

Comprehensive Cat Community Plan

Cats are mobile, social animals. Problems such as disease and overpopulation travel readily from feral cats to indoor/outdoor cats to ordinary pets. The Comprehensive Cat Community Plan (CCCP) reflects our philosophy that the entire community of cats, not just certain subgroups, should be addressed in the design of a feline welfare program. In addition, animal welfare groups do not operate in isolation. With charitable resources scarce, no welfare organization can afford to duplicate the efforts of another.

Through the CCCP, we provide a safety net for the segments of the feline community that no one else will help. We seek solutions for problems that others ignore. Where other organizations are active (for example, the companion cat shelter and adoption program of Stray Hearts, Inc.), TFFF steps back. Where other programs are lacking, we step in. Thus, TFFF created the first feral cat shelter in Northern New Mexico since other shelters did not accept them. Later, we began Taos' first ever Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) program to address the problem of overpopulation of homeless cats.

The plan is reviewed and modified annually to ensure that TFFF's resources are used appropriately to serve the segments of the cat community most in need. TFFF's resources are financial, labor-related and physical assets. Financial resources include current funds plus expected new donations and grants, less the expected future costs of operating TFFF's programs. Labor-related assets are available volunteer hours less the expected labor hours needed to complete program commitments. The main physical asset is the shelter's space available to accept new residents. Each program's costs are evaluated over a time frame appropriate to the nature of TFFF's commitment. The shelter is assumed to be a multi-year obligation of TFFF while the other programs are evaluated as one year obligations.

The 2017 CCCP consists of three core activities. The Shelter Program rescues, shelters, and finds adoptive homes for feral cats in Taos and western Colfax counties of New Mexico. In addition to the feral cat shelter, TFFF maintains a small companion cat shelter primarily for older cats, cats with disabilities and for "owner surrender" cats. As of 12/31/2016, there were 63 cats at our shelter.

The Trap, Neuter, and Return Program provides free spay/neuter surgeries, cat food and general assistance to outdoor cat caregivers throughout Taos and western Colfax counties. As of 12/31/2016, there were over 100 colonies of feral cats managed by TFFF with an estimated total population of about 600. TFFF also provides veterinary expense assistance and free cat food to low-income households in Taos, typically to unemployed, low income and/or disabled TNR program colony caregivers or volunteers.

The Pays To Help Strays Program encourages people to adopt stray cats directly from the wild. TFFF pays for spay/neuter, FELV/FIV screening, and all recommended vaccinations. Our clients get affordable new pets... and homeless cats get new homes!

Spay/Neuter Taos, the PetSmart Charities®/TFFF partnership, began 1/15/2011. Spay/Neuter Taos utilizes all three TFFF programs in a highly focused effort to spay/neuter up to 300 cats over a one year period, with the goal of achieving a quick, significant reduction in the free-roaming cat population within the designated target area of Taos, Ranchos De Taos, El Prado and Questa. In January 2017, PetSmart Charities provided TFFF with more than \$20,000 of new funding to spay/neuter an estimated 300 cats through the Spay/Neuter Taos partnership. Since the program began, annual feline intakes at the Taos community shelter have declined by 42%, a key goal of Spay/Neuter Taos.

Let's take a closer look at how each program works. Keep in mind that we don't consider these activities separate and unrelated, but as parts of a comprehensive plan to fulfill our mission.

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Shelter Program

TFFF began in 2004 as a cat rescue organization. Its first shelter residents were feral cats awaiting euthanasia at the local Humane Society, rescued and brought home by Leanne Mitchell. Since then, TFFF has become the premier, no-kill feline shelter in Northern New Mexico.

The primary shelter facility is a former 814 square foot guesthouse with four rooms located in Ranchos De Taos, New Mexico. The cats are free to roam within each room - it is a cage-less shelter. Two rooms have ceilings with exposed wooden supports that the cats can sit or walk along, effectively increasing the usable areas of the rooms. Two rooms have windows opening onto screened-in porches, allowing our residents to safely enjoy the outdoors. The building can easily accommodate about 60 cats and is presently reserved for feral cats. Counting the additional shelter areas in a separate building, total shelter capacity is 90.

A cage-less environment is important to the health and well-being of feral cats. Feral cats, accustomed to running free, can become lethargic and stop eating if confined to a cage. Our cats run and play within their rooms, interacting with the other cats, forming a community much like an outdoor feral cat colony. Eating habits and litter box use are normal. Fights are seldom observed. By all measures, the ferals are well-adapted to life at the TFFF shelter.

Controlling and preventing feline disease is an important part of the Shelter Program. The shelter is cleaned and disinfected daily. Before a cat enters the shelter community, it is screened for FELV (feline leukemia) and FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) as recommended by the American Association of Feline Practitioners. Cats with these communicable illnesses cannot be placed in our open setting. Cats with less serious problems, such as upper respiratory illness, are kept isolated from the main shelter until they recover. For this purpose and other special needs, some cats are housed in rooms apart from the main shelter. Non-feral cats, companion animals, are also kept in these areas where they receive more contact with TFFF volunteers. All cats held at TFFF receive FeLV, FVRCP, and rabies vaccinations as soon as practical upon their arrival at the shelter. All cats are spayed or neutered prior to adoption.

TFFF actively seeks to find permanent, loving homes for both companion and feral cats. Despite the common misconception that feral cats are unadoptable, we have been successful in finding individuals who appreciate the wild nature and rodent-controlling abilities of feral cats. A standardized adoption agreement, providing contact information, cat health and identification data is executed. We contact each adopter at least once to see how the cat and owner have adapted. The suggested donation for adoptions is \$12.50 per feral cat to \$25.00 per companion cat, but many cats are offered with no fee.

Feral cat adoptions take time to arrange. A suitable home for feral cats requires shelter from the elements and predators, specifically wild dogs and coyotes, and a human caregiver. Given that Taos County has been plagued with serious rodent problems, including human fatalities caused by the mouse-transmitted Hanta virus, TFFF believes that the community obtains material public health benefits from properly managed feral cat populations. By building awareness of our organization and promoting the rodent-control advantages of cat ownership, TFFF boosts the demand for both companion and feral cats.

TFFF arranged adoptions for 33 shelter cats (28 feral, 5 companion) in 2016, accepted 41 new intakes (33 feral, 8 companion) into the shelter. Three residents were euthanized and five residents died while in care. There were 63 cats at the shelter at 12/31/16, unchanged from last year. TFFF's goal for 2017 is to accept 25 to 35 new residents and to arrange 25 to 35 shelter adoptions.

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) Program

TNR is our community outreach program supporting the animal care efforts of individuals with outdoor cat populations. It is the best option for helping feral cats when a property owner is willing to support a feral cat colony on his/her premises. If residents are willing to provide food, water, and shelter sufficient to maintain a feral colony, TFFF will trap the animals, transport them to the veterinarian for spay/neuter, rabies vaccinations, and ear-tipping, then return them back into the feral colony. By keeping the population under control, residents are able to manage their colonies more efficiently, without incurring the costs of an ever-increasing population. Additionally, by helping people manage cats on their premises, we are able to reserve our limited shelter space for cats that are unsupported or suffering abuse.

TNR is the most critical element of TFFF's mission to contain feral populations in a humane manner. It has been shown to be more effective in reducing cat populations than euthanasia and is recommended by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASCPA). TNR complements, but does not replace the need for our rescue, shelter, and adoption program. First, TNR is best suited for true feral cats – a young kitten or a stray cat with the temperament of a companion animal should be placed in a shelter for adoption. Second, TNR requires the active co-operation of the property-owner. If a property-owner is unwilling to support the colony, or will not consent to our program guidelines, TFFF will not initiate a TNR program. If cats' lives are in immediate jeopardy, we will trap, remove the cats, and take them to our shelter for veterinary care and adoption.

TNR is available free of charge to the public in Taos and western Colfax Counties. TFFF also provides free cat food to low-income colony care-givers and provides a limited amount of veterinary expense reimbursement. In 2016, \$2,630 of cat food was distributed free to TNR colony caregivers and \$2,388 in veterinary expense reimbursement was paid.

Controlling and preventing feline disease in outdoor cats is an important part of the TNR Program. Outdoor cats are exposed to more pathogens and live under much harsher conditions than indoor cats. The two most common serious feline diseases we encounter are FIV and FELV. FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) is prevalent throughout Taos County. Like human AIDS, FIV attacks a cat's immune system, making it more susceptible to other diseases. FIV is spread directly from cat to cat by biting, mating, and sharing of infected litter, water or food sources. FELV is a serious viral infection spread mainly from mother to kittens. An effective vaccine for FELV is available and all TFFF shelter cats receive it. However, because the FELV vaccine requires booster shots, it is not practical for TNR cats.

TFFF does not test TNR cats for FIV or FELV unless, in a veterinarian's opinion, a cat manifests symptoms associated with these infections. No cat at TFFF has or will ever be euthanized based solely on the results of the FELV/FIV test. However, to prevent the spread of these fatal pathogens to otherwise healthy cats, TFFF does not return demonstrably sick cats testing positive for FELV or FIV to the feral colony. In these cases, depending on the specific facts and upon consultation with the attending veterinarian and feral cat caregiver, TFFF may elect to euthanize or retain the cat in isolation at its shelter. A complete discussion of TFFF's testing policy can be found on the TFFF website.

During 2016, 129 TNR cases were completed with three TNR-related euthanasia cases. For 2016, TFFF expects to handle 110 to 140 TNR cases, with the majority relating to the Spay/Neuter Taos program.

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Pays To Help Strays

“Pays To Help Strays” assists people who adopt stray and feral cats directly into their homes. Through Pays To Help Strays, we will reimburse the costs of the spay/neuter surgery and all vet-recommended vaccinations and tests... all the services needed to make sure your new cat is healthy and protected. Our motto is: Adoptions Done Right! To be eligible, the person must contact us within 60 days, or in advance, of the adoption. Cats adopted from shelters, pet stores, or breeders are ineligible for this program.

With shelter space always in limited supply, foster home care for unowned cats is valuable to the animal welfare community. Recognizing this, in 2014, TFFF extended eligibility for the Pays To Help Strays program to cats in foster care. Foster care providers can be operating independently or under the supervision of an animal welfare organization. TFFF requires that the foster care provider intends to find a permanent, local home for their foster cat(s) and that TFFF be provided with contact information of the ultimate adopter(s). Pays To Help Strays benefits can be used while the cat is in foster care or transferred to the ultimate adopter. With all of the program’s free veterinary services, adopting a foster cat becomes safe and inexpensive... and that makes foster cats more adoptable!

Whether supporting foster caregivers or adopters, Pays To Help Strays is a highly cost-effective way to help cats find permanent homes while simultaneously limiting the reproductive potential of the homeless cat population. By bringing homeless cats directly from the wild into permanent homes, the program bypasses the traditional shelter system. This benefits the entire community by preserving the community’s limited shelter capacity for the neediest animals.

Due to rising veterinary costs and the increasing popularity of this program, TFFF restricts its reimbursement to the following veterinary services: spay/neuter surgery, FELV/FIV testing, and recommended vaccinations (rabies, FVRCP, and FeLV). Charges for medicine, treatment of illness or injuries and veterinary examination fees, previously reimbursed by TFFF, are now the client’s responsibility. This change became effective March 1, 2012.

151 Pays To Help Strays adoptions were arranged in 2016. Based on our current expectations for 2016, TFFF expects to handle 130 to 160 Pays To Help Strays adoptions, with the majority relating to the Spay/Neuter Taos program.

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Low Income Caregiver Assistance Programs

In Taos, the poorest neighborhoods are also the areas with the highest populations of homeless cats. Many of TFFF's current and potential Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) clients reside in these areas, helping feral cats survive, putting out food and water every day even while dealing with hunger themselves. While TNR is the ultimate solution to keeping homeless cat populations in check, many months can pass before the number of cats begins to decline. In the interim, some caregivers require assistance to keep their 'outdoor kitties' well-fed and healthy.

TFFF helps low-income caregivers by providing free cat food and reimbursement for veterinary expenses relating to their free-roaming cats. To qualify, a resident must be actively providing care to homeless cats in a TFFF managed feral cat colony and must reside in a household with total family income below \$40,000 per year. Distributions are made on an 'as needed' basis, as requested by the caregiver. Subject to the same income criterion, other TFFF volunteers may also be admitted into the program on a discretionary basis.

Consistent with our mission to prevent the inhumane treatment of homeless cats, the program is a safety net for the most disadvantaged cats and people. In addition, TFFF hopes that it will attract new caregivers into the TNR program. During 2016, free food costing \$2,630 was distributed through the Low Income Food Assistance (LIFA) program and \$2,388 of veterinary expenses was paid via the Low Income Veterinary Expense (LIVE) reimbursement program.

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Financial Overview as of 12/31/2016

Introduction

Taos Feral Feline Friends (TFFF) is a 501-c(3) non-profit association, founded in June 2004, providing animal welfare to stray and feral cats throughout Northern New Mexico. The association's headquarters and shelter facility are located in unincorporated Taos County, New Mexico, approximately 8 miles southwest of the town of Taos. The following discussion is a material part of the TFFF financial report. This financial report has not been audited, but is believed by the undersigned to be an accurate representation of the financial condition of the association as of Dec. 31, 2016. Further information concerning the organization's financial condition may be obtained from IRS Form 990. Please contact us in writing if you would like to receive this filing. There is no charge to receive our tax filing.

2016 Income Statement

TFFF prepares its accounting statements on a cash basis with semi-annual reporting periods ending June 30 and December 31. TFFF had revenues of \$63,653 for CY2016, consisting of approximately 33% private donations (including adoption fees); 42% special events (a walkathon); 20% corporate and charitable foundation grants; and 5% founder donations. Revenues increased by 10% in comparison to the \$58,110 recorded in 2015. Despite this increase, 2016 revenues were substantially below the budgeted values for 2016 due to TFFF's failure to obtain an anticipated grant from PetSmart Charities during CY2016. Private donations increased by 1% from \$21,040 in 2015 to \$21,312 in 2016, special event revenue increased by 23% from \$21,754 to \$26,726, primarily due to increased solicitation of walkathon sponsors. Charitable grants decreased 8% from \$13,866 to \$12,716. Founder donations, the smallest revenue component, were \$2,900, an increase of 100% from the prior year. The special event revenue includes a non-cash amount of \$779 from feline FELV/FIV test kits donated by IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Private donations include \$2,200 of proceeds from the sale of a donated vehicle.

TFFF had expenses of \$70,871 for CY2016, consisting of 35% for shelter food and litter (vs. 34% during 2015), 47% for veterinary costs, veterinary supplies and medicine, (vs. 46% during 2015), 7% for veterinary expense and food assistance to low income families (vs. 6% during 2015), 6% for TNR equipment, shelter equipment and supplies (vs. 6% during 2015), and 6% for utilities, advertising, printing, postage, special event expenses, promotional and miscellaneous costs (vs. 7% during 2015). In total, expenses decreased by 5% from \$74,432 in 2015 to \$70,871 in 2016. The decrease in expenses for 2016 vs. 2015 occurred across all expense categories other than the low-income assistance programs. Program activity, measured as the number of cats assisted during the calendar year, increased slightly from 369 in 2015 to 384 in 2016 due to an increased TNR program caseload during 2016.

TFFF had no employee or private contractor costs through during CY2016. Utility costs totaled \$509 for waste disposal, cell phone and web-hosting fees for the TFFF website. All other utility, all insurance and all transportation costs were paid for TFFF as in-kind donations by William and Leanne Mitchell. Additionally, TFFF leases its shelter facility on a rent-free basis from William and Leanne Mitchell. The payment of certain expenses by William and Leanne Mitchell and rent-free lease are charitable arrangements that can be terminated at any time.

Based on the above revenue and expenses, TFFF reported an operating loss of \$7,218 during 2016 vs. a loss of \$16,322 for 2015.

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Financial Overview as of 12/31/2016 (continued)

2016 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

TFFF maintains a checking account with the Taos, NM branch of Peoples Bank, 13180 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS. As of 12/31/2016, the account balance was \$20,837. The account does not pay interest and incurs no banking fees, other than purchase of blank checks and return check fees. TFFF maintains an account with PayPal to facilitate on-line donations via the TFFF website. As of 12/31/2016, the PayPal account balance was \$4,061. TFFF had undeposited cash and checks of \$1,505 as of 12/31/2016. TFFF also has a brokerage account at Fidelity Investments to facilitate charitable donations of securities and its balance was \$0 as of 12/31/2016.

To obtain liquidity, TFFF has borrowed \$7,827 from founders Leanne and William Mitchell as of 12/31/2016. A \$40,000 credit line has been committed for TFFF through 12/31/2018 by the founders. The loan bears no interest, can be repaid at any time, and appears on the association's statement of assets and liabilities contained herein. TFFF has no other debt or lease obligations as of 12/31/2016.

Subsequent to 12/31/2016, TFFF repaid the \$7,827 yearend loan balance with funds from its checking account. TFFF plans to continue utilizing the loan facility during CY2017 to provide liquidity.

TFFF's cumulative surplus (excess of revenue over expense from inception) was \$18,576 as of 12/31/2016. The surplus is approximately 2.8% of inception-to-date revenue as of 12/31/2016.

2016 Expenses by Program

This exhibit was prepared from the expense records of the association. Some expense categories such as Shelter Supplies, Shelter Equipment and TNR Equipment are directly associated with a specific program. Veterinary Costs were subdivided by program by totaling each animal's vet costs by the corresponding program under which treatment was provided. Medicine and Veterinary Supplies category expenses, mainly the cost of FELV/FIV test kits and vaccines, were allocated by program according to the number of cats utilizing the supplies. Low Income Food Assistance (LIFA) and Low Income Veterinary Expense Assistance (LIVE) costs are tabulated directly from the original expense records. Both LIFA and LIVE costs are classified under the TNR program costs since most recipients are current or former TNR clients. All food costs, other than LIFA, and all litter costs are attributed to the Shelter program. Miscellaneous expenses are allocated to each program according to the total numbers of animals aided by program during 2016: 129 for the TNR program, 104 for the Shelter program, and 151 for the Pays To Help Strays program.

Program Budgets for 2017

TFFF has prepared budgets, i.e., revenue and expense estimates, relating to each of its three programs for the 2017 calendar year, based upon its 2017 program caseload targets. The Shelter Program budget assumes 30 new shelter intakes, 30 shelter adoptions and 5 shelter deaths and/or euthanasia cases during 2017 and a starting population of 63 residents. The TNR Program budget assumes 125 new cases in 2017. 145 Pays To Help Strays program cases are assumed for 2017. LIVE and LIFA caseloads are assumed to recur at the average of 2015 and 2016 calendar year activity.

Calendar year revenue is estimated by source for the organization. For 2017, we are projecting that the grant revenue will include approximately \$21,500 in renewal funding from PetSmart Charities for Spay/Neuter Taos and \$8,000 from all other grantors in aggregate. In January 2017, TFFF obtained a \$21,522 cash grant from PetSmart Charities to pay for 300 spay/neuter surgeries over twelve months.

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Financial Overview as of 12/31/2016 (continued)

Private donation and special event revenue was estimated to be slightly above the 2016 values. Because 2016 founder donations included a non-recurring special contribution, founder donations for 2017 are expected to revert to the prior years' value of \$1,450. Budgeted revenue is \$79,450 for CY2017, representing an increase of about 25% over CY2016. The budgeted revenue for CY2017 consists of approximately 27% private donation revenue, 34% special event revenue, 37% grant revenue, and 2% founder donations. No other sources of revenue are expected.


Expense estimates are based primarily on actual 2015 and 2016 costs by category, adjusted for projected changes in program caseloads and inflation. Annual price inflation rates assumed are 5% for food and litter, 2% for veterinary services and 3% for all other expenses. Since TFFF purchases most of its food and litter from a single supplier, actual price inflation for this expense category during 2017 may be considerably different from the assumption employed herein. Food, litter, veterinary, medicine and veterinary supply costs are based on 2016 costs adjusted for inflation and the expected differences in 2016 vs. 2017 case counts by program. The remaining expense category estimates utilize the following bases, adjusted for inflation: supplies, equipment, telephone and website hosting, special event costs and LIFA/LIVE program costs – average of 2015 and 2016 costs; waste disposal – 2016 costs; advertising, printing and postage costs – 2015 costs. The remaining, small miscellaneous items are judgmental estimates. All utility and miscellaneous expenses not directly associated with the Shelter Program are allocated to individual programs according to the projected program caseloads. Since TFFF intends to remain a 100% volunteer organization, no personnel costs are projected for CY2017. Rent, insurance, electricity, heating, internet access and transportation costs, expected to be donated to TFFF throughout 2017 by William and Leanne Mitchell, appear as zeroes in the budget.

The ability of TFFF to fund its charitable operations is partially dependent on the attainment of grant funds from sources outside of the local community. Charitable foundation and corporate grants are awarded through a highly competitive process, making TFFF's future awards very difficult to predict. However, due to the realization of funding from PetSmart Charities in January 2017, we believe 2017 grant revenues will be fairly close to the estimates contained herein.

The 2017 budget targets a gain of approximately \$8,100 from operations. Due to the inherent uncertainty regarding the actual amount of donations that will be obtained during 2017, TFFF may be unable to achieve this targeted gain. However, barring unforeseen events, should a shortfall in donations occur, TFFF does not expect that it will impact its ability to achieve program goals during 2017. Although the values displayed in the projected budgets are believed to be reasonable estimates of TFFF's 2017 financial activity, all of the amounts should be considered hypothetical values, possibly differing materially from the actual results.

Signature

I hereby represent that the above discussion of the financial condition of Taos Feral Feline Friends as of December 31, 2016 and accompanying schedules are accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the projections discussed herein are based upon assumptions believed to be reasonable as of this date of signature:

 _____, signed on 2-20-17

Raeann Rasmussen, Vice-President and Treasurer of Taos Feral Feline Friends

Taos Feral Feline Friends

2016 Income Statement

	<u>1/1/16 - 6/30/16</u>	<u>7/1/16 - 12/30/16</u>	<u>1/1/16 - 12/31/16</u>	<u>1/1/15 - 12/31/15</u>
<u>Revenue</u>				
Private Donations (incl. Adoption Fees)	\$11,573	\$9,739	\$21,312	\$21,040
Special Events	\$0	\$26,726	\$26,726	\$21,754
Founder Donations	\$0	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$1,450
Grants	\$9,649	\$3,067	\$12,716	\$13,866
Investment Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$21,222	\$42,431	\$63,653	\$58,110
<u>Expenses</u>				
Salaries: Program Director	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Salaries: All Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Employee Payroll Taxes and Benefit Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractor and Professional Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Personnel Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Food & Litter	\$12,148	\$12,489	\$24,637	\$25,405
Veterinary Costs	\$14,156	\$13,688	\$27,844	\$27,345
Medicine and Veterinary Supplies	\$2,402	\$2,978	\$5,380	\$6,798
Low Income Food Assistance	\$1,092	\$1,538	\$2,630	\$2,986
Low Income Veterinary Expense Assistance	\$616	\$1,772	\$2,388	\$1,744
Subtotal Animal Costs	\$30,414	\$32,465	\$62,879	\$64,278
Shelter Supplies	\$1,169	\$1,013	\$2,182	\$2,469
Shelter Equipment	\$402	\$821	\$1,223	\$1,725
TNR Equipment	\$316	\$340	\$656	\$574
Subtotal Equipment & Supplies	\$1,887	\$2,174	\$4,061	\$4,768
Shelter Maintenance/Repair	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rent: 814 sq.ft 2bd./1ba guesthouse	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Waste Disposal	\$150	\$300	\$450	\$594
Telephone & Website Hosting	\$29	\$30	\$59	\$142
Heating & Electricity & Internet Access	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Property and Liability Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Insurance/Utilities	\$179	\$330	\$509	\$736
Automobile Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Advertising, Printing, Postage	\$1,853	\$763	\$2,616	\$3,289
Travel, Dining & Entertainment	\$0	\$47	\$47	\$51
Special Event Expenses	\$341	\$344	\$685	\$1,260
Promotional Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Charitable Contributions	\$50	\$0	\$50	\$50
Seminars, Workshops	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Taxes, Licenses, Fees	\$5	\$19	\$24	\$0
Subtotal Misc. Expenses	\$2,249	\$1,173	\$3,422	\$4,650
Total Expenses	\$34,729	\$36,142	\$70,871	\$74,432
<u>Surplus (Deficit) from Operations</u>	<u>(\$13,507)</u>	<u>\$6,289</u>	<u>(\$7,218)</u>	<u>(\$16,322)</u>

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

<u>Assets</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>	<u>12/31/2014</u>
Checking Account (Peoples Bank, Overland Park KS)	\$20,837	\$34,662	\$57,970
PayPal Account (on-line donations)	\$4,061	\$2,554	\$1,565
Brokerage Account (Fidelity Investments, LLC)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cash and Undeposited Checks	\$1,505	\$473	\$106
Total Assets	\$26,403	\$37,689	\$59,641
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Founder Loans (0% interest)	\$7,827	\$11,895	\$17,525
Accumulated Surplus / (Deficit)	\$18,576	\$25,794	\$42,116
Total Liabilities	\$26,403	\$37,689	\$59,641

Taos Feral Feline Friends

2016 Expenses by Program

	<u>1/1/16 - 12/31/16</u>	<u>1/1/16 - 12/31/16</u>	<u>1/1/16 - 12/31/16</u>	<u>1/1/16 - 12/31/16</u>
	<u>TNR</u>	<u>Shelter</u>	<u>Pays To Help</u>	<u>Total</u>
			<u>Strays</u>	
<u>Expenses</u>				
Salaries: Program Director	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Salaries: All Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Employee Payroll Taxes and Benefit Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractor and Professional Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Personnel Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Food & Litter	\$0	\$24,637	\$0	\$24,637
Veterinary Costs	\$8,565	\$8,181	\$11,098	\$27,844
Medicine and Veterinary Supplies	\$309	\$1,827	\$3,245	\$5,380
Low Income Food Assistance	\$2,630	\$0	\$0	\$2,630
Low Income Veterinary Expense Assistance	\$2,388	\$0	\$0	\$2,388
Subtotal Animal Costs	\$13,892	\$34,645	\$14,343	\$62,879
Supplies	\$0	\$2,182	\$0	\$2,182
Equipment	\$656	\$1,223	\$0	\$1,879
Subtotal Equipment & Supplies	\$656	\$3,405	\$0	\$4,061
Shelter Maintenance/Repair	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rent: 814 sq.ft 2bd./1ba guesthouse	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Waste Disposal	\$0	\$450	\$0	\$450
Telephone & Website Hosting	\$18	\$17	\$24	\$59
Heating & Electricity & Internet Access	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Property and Liability Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Insurance/Utilities	\$18	\$467	\$24	\$509
Automobile Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Advertising, Printing, Postage	\$794	\$744	\$1,078	\$2,616
Travel, Dining & Entertainment	\$14	\$13	\$19	\$47
Special Event Expenses	\$208	\$195	\$282	\$685
Promotional Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Charitable Contribution	\$15	\$14	\$21	\$50
Seminars, Workshops	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Taxes, Licenses, Fees	\$7	\$7	\$10	\$24
Subtotal Misc. Expenses	\$1,039	\$974	\$1,410	\$3,422
Total Expenses	\$15,604	\$39,490	\$15,777	\$70,871

Taos Feral Feline Friends *2017 Program Budgets*

	<u>1/1/17 - 12/31/17</u>	<u>1/1/17 - 12/31/17</u>	<u>1/1/17 - 12/31/17</u>	<u>1/1/17 - 12/31/17</u>
	<u>TNR</u>	<u>Shelter</u>	<u>PTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>
	125	30/60.5	145	
<u>Revenue</u>				
Private Donations (incl. Adoption Fees)				\$21,500
Special Events				\$27,000
Founder Donations				\$1,450
Grants				\$29,500
Investment Income				\$0
Total Revenue				\$79,450
<u>Expenses</u>				
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Employee Payroll Taxes and Benefit Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractor and Professional Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Personnel Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Food & Litter	\$0	\$24,842	\$0	\$24,842
Veterinary Costs	\$8,465	\$7,060	\$10,870	\$26,395
Medicine and Veterinary Supplies	\$308	\$1,592	\$3,209	\$5,109
Low Income Food Assistance	\$3,027	\$0	\$0	\$3,027
Low Income Veterinary Expense Assistance	\$2,125	\$0	\$0	\$2,125
Subtotal Animal Costs	\$13,925	\$33,494	\$14,079	\$61,498
Supplies	\$0	\$2,433	\$0	\$2,433
Equipment	\$642	\$1,545	\$0	\$2,187
Subtotal Equipment & Supplies	\$642	\$3,978	\$0	\$4,621
Shelter Maintenance/Repair	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rent: 814 sq.ft 2bd./1ba guesthouse	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Waste Disposal	\$0	\$459	\$0	\$459
Telephone & Website Hosting	\$36	\$26	\$42	\$104
Heating & Electricity & Internet Access	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Property and Liability Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Insurance/Utilities	\$36	\$485	\$42	\$563
Automobile Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Advertising, Printing, Postage	\$1,210	\$876	\$1,403	\$3,489
Travel, Dining & Entertainment	\$35	\$25	\$40	\$100
Special Event Expenses	\$354	\$256	\$411	\$1,021
Promotional Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Charitable Contribution	\$17	\$13	\$20	\$50
Seminars, Workshops	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Taxes, Licenses, Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Misc. Expenses	\$1,616	\$1,170	\$1,875	\$4,660
Total Expenses	\$16,220	\$39,127	\$15,996	\$71,342

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Appendix 1 - Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Taos Feral Feline Friends?

We are a not-for-profit, tax-exempt, animal welfare association dedicated to helping stray and feral cats. Formed in June 2004, we are the only shelter in northern New Mexico that rescues and finds homes for feral cats. We also help the community manage feral cats through Trap, Neuter, and Return. Our non-profit status is certified by both the Internal Revenue Service and the Attorney General of New Mexico. We've helped over 3,500 cats as of 12/31/2015.

What are feral cats?

Feral cats are either abandoned or lost domestic cats that have reverted to their 'wild nature' or cats that were born outside to a feral mother. They often form self-reliant social groups known as "colonies" near a source of food and shelter. Most human communities have feral cat colonies, but many people are unaware of their existence since "ferals" avoid human contact.

How are feral cats different from stray cats?

A stray cat is a domesticated animal, a pet that has been recently lost or abandoned. It can be resocialized and placed in an adoptive home. Feral cats do not appreciate human contact and hence cannot usually be made into pets. For this reason, feral cats are shunned by most animal shelters.

Why do feral cats need our help?

Feral cats living in the wrong locations are considered a public nuisance and are often captured, poisoned, or otherwise mistreated. Feral cats brought to local animal pounds are deemed unadoptable and "humanely" euthanized. We do not believe that this treatment of innocent animals is moral. Feral cats have a right to live! There are better solutions.

How can we help feral cats?

If you make a donation to Taos Feral Feline Friends, you will save and improve the lives of feral cats in our community. Also, call us if you want to adopt - we have both ferals and house cats available.

What does Taos Feral Feline Friends actually do?

We operate the only Trap, Neuter & Return Program in Taos. It aids people with outdoor cats by providing free spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, vet care and catfood.

Our Shelter Program helps concerned people from all over the Taos area rescue cats. The shelter is an 814 sq. ft. cageless facility, perfect for feral cats since they don't do well in cages. All cats brought to our shelter are examined by a licensed veterinarian, lab-tested for serious diseases, vaccinated, and spayed/neutered before adoption. For feral cats, we seek appropriate placement in settings where they will be welcomed and cared for, typically in rural homes as 'mousers' or 'barn kitties'.

We also encourage people to adopt stray cats directly from the wild with the "Pays To Help Strays" Program. Taking in a stray is a kind, life-saving act, but there are risks. We pay for spay/neuter, all vet-recommended vaccinations and tests. Our motto is: "Adoptions Done Right"!

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Appendix 1 - Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

What is Trap, Neuter, and Return?

Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) is a free community outreach program for managing feral cats without retaining them at the shelter. Quite simply, with the help of our volunteer caregivers, ferals are trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated and then released back into their familiar territory. TFFF offers Trap, Neuter and Return to reduce over-population, homelessness, and disease amongst feral cats.

Why does Taos Feral Feline Friends need our help?

We receive no compensation from local animal shelters, city or county government. Since ferals are not adopted as pets, we find that charging standard adoption fees is impractical and restricts our ability to find acceptable homes. Thus, we rely almost entirely on grants and charitable donations from the community to support our operations. All donations made to us are acknowledged with a written receipt and are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

How will my donation be used?

Your donation mainly pays for medicine, veterinary care, cat food and litter. It might be used for adoption advertising or to buy equipment (for example, humane traps). However, TFFF has no personnel costs: all of our workers and association officers are unpaid volunteers so your entire donation directly benefits our cats.

Does Taos Feral Feline Friends help regular (non-feral) cats?

Yes, we help all cats at the shelter, space permitting, and usually have 10-20 house cats or kittens ready for adoption as pets. Our companion cats have their own areas separate from the ferals where they receive the extra human contact that they appreciate.

Does Taos Feral Feline Friends ever euthanize cats?

Our shelter follows a strict 'no-kill' philosophy. We will permit a licensed veterinarian to euthanize a cat only if it is suffering from a fatal disease or injury. Historically, only about 2% of our cats have been euthanized. In fact, many of our shelter residents are 'special needs' cats that would typically be euthanized at community animal facilities.

How can I make a contribution, adopt a cat, or get more information?

Please call or E-mail Leanne Mitchell at (575) 737-9208, catmomoftaos@hotmail.com or visit our website at <http://taosferalfelinefriends.tripod.com>. The TFFF website welcomes on-line donations made via all major credit cards or PayPal.

Taos Feral Feline Friends

Appendix 2 – Association Officers, Quick Facts, and Contact Information

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS (year first elected)

Leanne Mitchell, President and Founder (2004)
Raeann Rasmussen, Vice-President / Treasurer (2016)
Edna Sturctman, Vice-President / Secretary (2016)
Patrick Finn, Vice-President (2010)

QUICK FACTS

MISSION

Prevent the inhumane treatment of stray and feral cats in Northern New Mexico, stop unnecessary euthanasia of stray and feral cats, and reduce the population of stray and feral cats.

HISTORY

Taos Feral Feline Friends (TFFF) is a 501c-3 charitable association promoting animal welfare throughout Northern New Mexico. TFFF was founded in June 2004 by Leanne Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell has over 25 years experience working with animal welfare organizations in Illinois and New Mexico.

TFFF is unique: it is a 100% volunteer organization operating the only facility in Northern New Mexico that rescues, shelters, and relocates feral cats. In 2005, it initiated the area's only Trap, Neuter, and Return program to spay/neuter feral cats and assist outdoor cat caregivers.

FACILITY & AREA OF OPERATION

TFFF operates an 814 sq. ft. cage-less shelter facility in Ranchos De Taos, New Mexico in unincorporated Taos County, approximately eight miles southwest of the town of Taos. The organization exclusively serves Taos County and the Enchanted Circle area of Colfax County, New Mexico.

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

TFFF operates under a strict no-kill mandate. Euthanasia is used only if, in the judgment of a veterinarian, an animal is terminally ill or injured. TFFF veterinary care standards are established and reviewed by Drs. Susanne Felser and Patricia Albin, veterinarians licensed by the state of New Mexico, and are consistent with the recommendations of the American Association of Feline Practitioners.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone and Fax: (575) 737-9208
Mailing Address: Taos Feral Feline Friends
PO Box 1926
Ranchos De Taos, NM 87557-1926
Email: catmomoftaos@hotmail.com
Federal EIN: 77-0635095
Website: <http://taosferalfelinefriends.tripod.com>