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Media Release

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Woods Humane Society's Project M.E.O.W Trap, Neuter, and Return Program Receives \$5000 Grant from the Petco Foundation

(SLO, CA, 10-26-16) Woods Humane Society has received a generous grant of \$5,000 from The Petco Foundation to support trap, neuter, and return programs in San Luis Obispo County. This grant supplies much needed financial support to the partnership between Woods and local rescue groups in San Luis Obispo that provides an ultra-low cost option for feral and community cat sterilization through the shelter's Project M.E.O.W.

Project M.E.O.W is a trap, neuter(spay), and return program through which local rescue groups trap stray un-owned neighborhood felines, bring them to Woods Humane Society for surgery, and return them to the neighborhood or colony from where they came.

Trap-Neuter-Return, also known as TNR, is a scientifically studied humane and effective approach to managing feral cats. TNR improves the lives of feral cats, improves their relationships with the people who live near them, and decreases the size of colonies over time. Intrinsically, TNR programs also directly impact animal shelters by reducing the number of felines that will enter a shelter.

Partnering up with the Feline Network of the Central Coast in south SLO County and Paws Cause in north SLO County, Woods Humane Society has dedicated a significant amount of resources toward curbing feline overpopulation on the central coast. Thanks to the generous financial support of the Petco Foundation, Project M.E.O.W. has performed a total of 1,651

feline sterilization surgeries over the past 3 years. “By pooling resources and combining our efforts with local rescue groups, Woods Humane Society is able to multiply the impact that each sterilization surgery makes on San Luis Obispo County felines. We are deeply grateful to the Petco Foundation for recognizing the importance of this program and so generously providing funds to support it.” – states Jill Tucker, Executive Director.

If you are concerned about unowned cats living in your neighborhood, please reach out to the Feline Network of the Central Coast or, in north county, Paws Cause as these are the two local organizations that provide the vital trapping and return components of Project M.E.O.W.

(333 words)

About Woods Humane Society

Founded in 1955, Woods Humane Society has proudly served the homeless animals of San Luis Obispo County for 61 years. Woods Humane Society is a privately funded, non-profit, animal sheltering and welfare organization, based in San Luis Obispo that annually places over 1,500 dogs and cats into loving homes. Visit woodshumane.org to donate or learn more.

Information about the Woods Humane Society **Project M.E.O.W** is found at <http://www.woodshumanesociety.org/shelter-services/spay-and-neuter.php>

About Petco Foundation

At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we've invested more than \$125 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 8,000 animal welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay and neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other lifesaving initiatives. Through our Think Adoption First program, we partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we've helped more than 4.2 million pets find their new loving families, and we're just getting started. Visit <http://www.petcofoundation.org> to learn more about how you can get involved.

About Paws Cause

We're an all-volunteer group improving the lives of cats in northern San Luis Obispo County on California's Central Coast. We reduce the number of unwanted kittens born and help keep North County cats out of the local shelter. Our main focus is spay/neuter -- for feral cats, ranch cats and cats who live with low income families. We also rescue and foster, adopt companion and barn cats and support people who manage colonies as our resources allow. Information about PAWS Cause is found at <http://northcountypawscare.org/home.html>

About the Feline Network of the Central Coast

Feline Network of the Central Coast is a San Luis Obispo based non-profit humane organization dedicated to the spaying and neutering, care, rescue and adoption of kittens and cats. We strive to communicate the importance of responsible pet care and ownership and to educate the public on the necessity of spaying and neutering. Information about the Feline Network of the Central Coast is found at <https://felinenetwork.org/>