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### **A year (more or less) in review...**

Although the Feral Cat Management Program (FCAMP), technically, came into existence in April of 2002, things really didn't get rolling until July or August of that year. For starters, the program needed to be officially recognized by the NMSU leadership, which didn't occur until after the start of the Fall 2002 semester. Also, we needed to raise funds in order to purchase traps, pay vet bills, and handle other expenses associated with the program. In October of 2002, we finally began trapping, and to date, we've TNR'd 39 campus kitties. (TNR stands for Trap, Neuter and Release.)

Our program is based on the concept of TNR. Historically, a couple of times a year, some of the NMSU groundspeople were tasked with trapping the feral campus cats. These cats were then taken to the county animal shelter, where they were euthanized. This method was largely ineffective, as evidenced by the numbers of cats still inhabiting the campus. This is due to the fact that, when a cat is permanently removed from an area, another cat simply moves in to that area.

With TNR, feeding stations are set up in various locations on the campus grounds. The cats begin using these stations, thus developing a routine, which makes them easier to trap. The cats are trapped in humane traps, then are taken to a veterinarian, where they are spayed or neutered, vaccinated for rabies, and given an overall checkup. As needed, additional care such as antibiotic shots or flea and tick treatments is administered. The cats are then allowed to recover from their surgery for a day or two before being returned to campus and released in the same location where they were trapped. TNR cats can be identified by looking at their left ear, which is tipped (the top ¼" is removed).

The TNR process accomplishes a couple of things. First, since the cats are being fed on

a regular basis, they are healthier and less inclined to make a nuisance of themselves by looking for food elsewhere, such as in dumpsters. Secondly, since they are spayed or neutered, they can't reproduce, so the campus feline population is stabilized.

### **Our Financials (from 6/02 - 9/03)...**

Income (aluminum & printer cartridge redemptions, yardsale proceeds, plus some cash donations): \$2446.59

Expenses:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Vet expenses:  | \$1698.52 |
| Trap purchases (8 traps):                              | \$278.40  |
| Bank charges:  | \$48.00   |
| Miscellaneous (PO Box rental, yardsale supplies, etc.) | \$187.23  |

### **Looking Ahead...**

As long as we have funds to do so, and the continued support of the NMSU leadership, we will continue to TNR the feral cat population here on campus. We generally try to trap once a month. We would like to expand our program, but without additional volunteers to set up and maintain feeding stations, we are limited in our efforts. If you can help by setting up and maintaining a feeding station, please contact us!

Our major source of funding is from the two annual yardsales that we sponsor. If you have items that you would like to donate for our upcoming October yardsale, please call 639-3036, 646-1432 or send e-mail to [fcamp@nmsu.edu](mailto:fcamp@nmsu.edu). We accept most items, with the exception of clothing. Also, we accept aluminum cans and laser toner and inkjet printer cartridges. If you contact us, we will pick up these items.

We have a website: [www.nmsu.edu/~fcamp](http://www.nmsu.edu/~fcamp). We try to keep this site updated so that you have the latest information on what's happening with our program. We also list adoptable kitties here, so if you're looking for a feline companion, check out the website!