

TEAM

MOBILE FELINE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC

TEAMWORKS - SUMMER 2019

TO OUR READERS

Welcome to TEAMWORKS—the quarterly newsletter of Tait’s Every Animal Matters.

We hope this publication will be a source of news and information for you, and a testament to how your support helps us help animals.

In this issue, we celebrate the completion of our 200,000th spay/neuter surgery and highlight our current programs and services. In future issues, we will explore other areas of animal welfare, too.

Although our focus these past 22 years has been on cats, we are committed to making Connecticut a better place for every animal and everyone who cares for them.

TEAM works because of you. We look forward to your continued friendship and welcome your comments. Please feel free to contact me at djs@everyanimalmatters.org with your questions or suggestions, and enjoy reading!



Sincerely,

Donna Sicuranza, Editor

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TEAM Spays/Neuters 800 Tons of Cats Since 1997

The staff of the TEAM Mobile Feline Spay / Neuter Clinic kicked off 2019 with the completion of its 200,000th sterilization surgery, proving that the small but dedicated group is still driven to end feline overpopulation after two decades on the road.

“That’s a ton of cats,” says Arthur Heller, DVM, who has performed the majority of the surgeries aboard the 28-foot mobile clinic. “In fact, if you estimate that each cat weighs eight pounds, on average, that’s 800 tons of cats” he says.

This unprecedented achievement has not only improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of cats, but also has prevented the birth of millions of unwanted kittens.

The TEAM clinic, Connecticut’s first and only mobile spay / neuter and vaccination clinic for cats, was established in 1997 by the late John Caltabiano, DVM, and TEAM Executive Director Donna Sicuranza to make spay / neuter services more affordable and accessible to cat caretakers. On their first day, TEAM altered 12 cats aboard a

22-foot mobile clinic that had barely enough room for cats and crew. Today, the veterinary staff can comfortably spay or neuter 35 cats in one of two vehicles that were custom-built for the organization.

“When we started, there were as many skeptics about our program as there were supporters,” Donna says. “People said we wouldn’t last, but our success has been a team effort in every way. It never would have happened without the commitment of our veterinary staff, the ladies in the office who handle hundreds of calls each week, our mechanic and maintenance crew, our generous donors, and the cat caretakers who put their trust in us. The cats don’t get here by themselves.”

TEAM currently travels to more than 25 communities statewide and the service is available to any Connecticut resident. Domestic and feral cats are welcomed aboard. The fee of \$110 per cat includes a brief exam, spay or neuter, vaccinations (rabies, distemper, upper / lower respiratory infection), nail trim and ear mite treatment (if needed). Parasite and flea prevention and treatment is also available.



Familiar Face

“I have taken advantage of your services several times over the past 15 years and have always brought home happy kitties that healed beautifully and best of all...didn’t reproduce! Thank you for all you do!” – Sharon

We're all about animals on the job and at home, too.

In total, the six-person staff of Tait's Every Animal Matters has:



Familiar faces aboard the TEAM clinic: Susan, Dr. Heller, and Dina

Susan King

Veterinary Technician

Susan came aboard in 2016 and has several thousand surgeries to her credit.

Arthur Heller, DVM

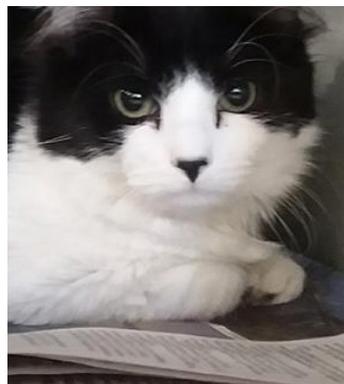
Medical Director

Dr. Heller has spayed or neutered almost 800 tons of cats aboard the mobile clinic.

Dina Sicuranza

Senior Veterinary Technician

Since joining the staff in 1998, Dina has assisted with the majority of procedures and has given close to one million injections, cleaned 400,000 ears, and trimmed over 3 million nails.



Familiar Face

"From the initial call to make the appointments, to the follow up call the day after surgery, everything was perfect. We knew our babies were in good hands. We are very grateful for these wonderful and affordable services you provide. Thank you for everything!" – Karri



Calypso was just a tiny kitten when she was rescued from the gas pipeline.



Pretty calico Calypso was the 200,000th cat to be spayed or neutered aboard the TEAM clinic.

Pretty Calypso first made headlines at just four days old after she was rescued from a gas meter well at a plant on Long Island.

“The men working heard a kitten crying and it took a few of them to move the heavy metal plate so that they could get to her,” says owner Suzanne McDonald, whose boyfriend helped rescue Calypso and brought her home to Connecticut.

The remarkable story of the tiny abandoned kitten was a feature in the gas company newsletter. Now Calypso is in the news again as the 200,000th cat to have surgery aboard the TEAM Mobile Feline Spay/Neuter Clinic.

Here are a few fun facts about this lucky cat!

SURGERY DATE & LOCATION

February 4, 2019
Torrington, CT

FAVORITE FOOD

Greenies treats for cats. “She sits on her back legs and begs with her front paws,” Suzanne says.

NICKNAME

Cali, Angel Kitty, Spoiled Kitty

QUIRKY TRAIT

“She sleeps under the blankets on the small of my back,” Suzanne says.

AGE AT TIME OF SPAY

6 months

CALYPSO'S BEST FRIEND

“All the cats love Cali,” Suzanne says of her feline family members, “but Cali loves Eddie, the 13-year-old male, best of all.”



OTHER PETS

Nine other cats—all rescues, like Calypso. She is the newest addition to the household and the youngest member. The oldest is 13.

FAVORITE HANGOUT

“Every room in my house is for the cats,” Suzanne says. “There is a cat bed or cat tree in every one. I have ten litter pans, too...and a water fountain. I have a nice yard with a pond. The front porch is enclosed and they all love to watch the birds. Cali loves it out there. She gets really excited when her ‘Dad’ pulls up—he comes on weekends because he works on Long Island—she knows he saved her.”



TIP makes it possible to help feral cats like Sobie.



Trapper was neutered by TEAM and returned to his multi-cat colony.

A note from the executive director:

For almost a year, *Sobie* roamed our neighborhood in search of food and a safe place to rest. I think our farm was as close as he got to a home. Every night, he would sit behind the barn and watch for me just like in this photo. I'd put down food and once he thought I was gone, he'd devour it.

He slept in our hayloft sometimes. He was definitely feral, and could not have been socialized, but after several months of this routine, I thought I could trap him for neutering. Unfortunately, he was hit by a car before I could catch him, which is so sad. He was a beautiful cat who deserved to be loved and cared for instead of fighting for survival. The stories of so many cats like *Sobie* inspired the **TEAM Incentive Program** for feral cats. More than 320 feral cats have come through TIP since it began in 2014.

Whether someone uses the program to help just one cat, like *Sobie*, or to spay/neuter multiple cats in a colony like the one *Trapper* lives in, the difference it makes is real. – **Donna**

The **TEAM Incentive Program** is supported in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.



Feral cats, each in a humane trap, wait their turn for surgery.



Help for feral cats

TEAM has been a proponent of Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) from the start, believing it is the most effective and most humane way to reduce the number of feral cats in our communities.

Through the **TEAM Incentive Program**, or **TIP**, anyone who brings a feral cat to the mobile clinic for spay / neuter, and pays the fee for service, is eligible for a rebate if these guidelines are met.

The feral cat must:

- Come to TEAM in a humane trap.
- Receive an ear-notch, or tip, to identify it as one that has been spayed or neutered.
- Be returned to the colony or location where it was trapped (TIP is not intended for cats or kittens that are being socialized for adoption).
- The TEAM staff will verify which cats are eligible for TIP on the day of surgery and issue a rebate form to the caretaker when the cat is discharged. Once the completed TIP form is returned to TEAM and approved, rebate checks are mailed within two weeks.

Donations to sustain the **TEAM Incentive Program** are needed and appreciated. Please give by check or online—when you do, simply let us know you would like your gift ear-marked for **TIP!**

For more information please call 1-888-FOR-TEAM.

TEAM THEME

Word Search

Q	N	A	X	V	E	T	T	E	C	H	W	E	E
V	O	C	S	X	S	O	E	R	J	V	K	A	R
V	N	B	T	L	D	N	W	Y	P	E	T	R	L
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CONNECTICUT
SPAY
NEUTER
EARMITES
NAIL TRIM
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FERAL
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DISTEMPER
KITTEN
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TOM
VET
TECH
CAT
QUEEN
PET
STERILIZE
MOBILE



Donate:

Your gift in any amount helps us fight feline overpopulation. Checks can be made payable to TEAM and mailed to P.O. Box 591, Westbrook, CT 06498. To make a donation by credit card, call 1-888-FOR-TEAM (1-888-367-8326), or go to PayPal at everyanimalmatters.org/donate/

Shop on Amazon:

That's right – just by shopping on Amazon, a portion of your proceeds can help TEAM. Begin your shopping at smile.amazon.com and select **Tait's Every Animal Matters** as your charity of choice. At no additional cost to you, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to us!

Host a Fundraiser:

Tag sales, bake sales, walk-a-thons, runs, and happy hours... the ideas for a special event to benefit TEAM and the cats in your community are endless!

Post Flyers:

The laundromat, grocery store, post office, YMCA, town hall, or library often has a community board where you can post a TEAM flyer. Email office@everyanimalmatters.org and we will send you copies to distribute.

Click Share:

Every time you like or share a TEAM Facebook post, you are telling friends about us and calling Facebook's attention to our mission as well. You can also donate directly through facebook.com/SpayNeuterCT/

Gift a Donation:

Donate to TEAM for the person who has everything. We will happily create a personalized certificate for the perfect gift.

Purchase a Gift Card:

For basic supplies, we shop at Big Y, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Staples and Walmart; and we fill up at Exxon or Mobil every day!

Sponsor a Spay or Neuter:

A gift certificate for one of our services is a great way to welcome a new kitten or help a cat in need.

TEAM is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit charity. Donations are tax-deductible. For more information or assistance or to suggest a fundraising idea, please contact Program Coordinator Lacey Chrystal at 860-399-7142, ext. 2.



Familiar Face

*"Incredible staff.
Amazing communication.
I have gone through TEAM for several
kitties throughout the years and they
are always phenomenal.
Highly recommend them!"
– Meghan*

**TEAM received a gift of \$1,317.00 from
the 2019 Essex Savings Bank Community
Investment Program.**



Pictured here are:

Essex Savings Bank Vice President Denise Goucher, TEAM Executive Director Donna Sicuranza, TEAM Program Coordinator Lacey Chrystal, and Essex Savings Bank Vice President Bernadette Jones

Spay/Neuter Package: \$110

Includes brief exam, vaccinations (rabies, distemper, and upper/lower respiratory infection), and nail trim.

Booster Vaccinations (cats must be spayed/neutered):

Rabies \$25

Distemper/upper/lower respiratory infection combo \$25

Kitten Package (kittens 10-16 weeks): \$30

Includes brief exam, first vaccinations (distemper, upper/lower respiratory infection) and de-wormer.

Ear mite treatment, if needed, is included with all veterinary services at no extra charge.

These supplies are available as recommended by our veterinarian.

Complete Worming Kit

(treats hook/roundworm and tapeworm):

Small kit for cats under 10lbs: \$12

Large kit for cats 10lbs and over: \$14

Hook/round, or tapeworm treatment sold separately:

Small: \$7 Large: \$8

Ear Mite Treatment: \$6

Frontline PLUS Flea & Tick Treatment:

3-pack: \$45 6-pack: \$75

Credit card for phone orders only:

Visa, Mastercard, and Discover.

Minimum shipping/handling charge: \$6

No returns or refunds. Prices subject to change.

Services and supplies are available only to Connecticut residents and cats.

TEAMWORKS is a publication of

Tait's Every Animal Matters

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everyanimalmatters.org

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*In cooperation with the Friends of the New Haven Animal Shelter.
To find out more about hosting the TEAM clinic, please call Lacey Chrystal at 860-399-7142, ext. 2.

Would you prefer to receive TEAMWORKS by email or not at all?
Please let us know at office@everyanimalmatters.org.
We are launching our new website later this year, so a digital version will be available soon, too!

