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## MRFRS “Catmobiles” Celebrate Major Milestone; 50,000 Cats Spayed/Neutered Since Inception

**Salisbury, MA** (date) The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society announced that it recently performed its 50,000th spay/neuter surgery via its successful Catmobile program.

“Performing 50,000 surgeries on owned and free-roaming cats in just eight years since our program’s inception exceeds even our wildest expectations,” said Liz Pease, MRFRS’s Executive Director. “We are truly gratified to have been able to have such a profound impact on feline overpopulation in Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire.”

The Catmobiles are mobile medical facilities housed in two specially outfitted 33’ trucks. Each Catmobile houses a surgical suite, exam area, anesthesia service and accommodations for up to 40 cats, and is staffed by a veterinarian and technician. The two trucks are on the road six days a week, traveling to more than 30 locations to make it convenient for individuals to spay or neuter their cats. In addition to surgery, each cat receives a brief exam, rabies vaccination (for cats over 12 weeks of age), FVRCP (distemper) vaccination, and nail trim.

Each month, the Catmobiles visit about 30 different towns in Eastern Massachusetts, from as far north as Salisbury, as far west as Worcester, Gardner, and Fitchburg, to as far south as Attleboro. The fee for male cats is \$80, and female cats, \$120, and frequently, reduced pricing is available, thanks to special promotions and grant dollars.

Pease noted, “Many of our clients tell us that the combination of proximity and affordability frequently makes the difference between whether they can spay/neuter their cat or not.”

“We could not have reached this milestone without the help and support of many animal rescues and welfare organizations around Massachusetts,” stated Pease. “They are on the front lines of identifying areas where the cats that need to be treated are, and they partner with us to promote the Catmobiles’ schedule and availability to their local audiences.”

Jill O'Connell, Executive Director of the Lowell Humane Society, declared, "The collaboration of the Catmobile and the Lowell Humane Society to curb the overpopulation of cats in the city of Lowell makes a difference. In 2009, 451 stray cats from Lowell were surrendered to the Lowell Humane Society, and more than half were kittens. In 2015, those numbers dropped to 222 surrendered cats, with only 73 kittens. Combined with proactive spay and neuter programs within our shelter, the Catmobile has helped the population of homeless cats within the city to steadily decrease. We are lucky to have them as a resource to our community."

The Catmobile's monthly schedule, and information about reserving a spot are located on the MRFRS website ([mrfrs.org](http://mrfrs.org)) as well as the Catmobile's Facebook page ([facebook.com/mrfrscatmobile](https://www.facebook.com/mrfrscatmobile)). Cat owners can also call 978-465-1940 for more information.

#### **About the Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society**

The MRFRS is a nationally recognized, nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization committed to ensuring the health and welfare of feral and domestic cats and kittens by promoting proactive, compassionate, no-kill programs. Last year the MRFRS sterilized over 7,000 cats and kittens. Since its founding in 1992, the organization has assisted over 109,000 cats and kittens.

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