From:	Kathy Hughes
To:	Steele, Bruce; angie newsome; asheville citizen times; associated press; barbara blake; bill mcclement; bob hunter; cibo; cibo; clarke morrison; clear channel; dale neal; david forbes; dawa hitch; Don Yelton; ellen; Ellen Heywood; jake frankel; Jerry Rice (jerry1advocate@gmail.com); lavox; mark barrett; mountain x; Peggy Moody; tammy jones; Trudi Walend; wlos; wwnc radio
Subject:	IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Free spay neuter program for community cats
Date:	Tuesday, October 8, 2013 12:15:00 PM

For Immediate Release

For More Information Contact: Ellen Frost, Buncombe County Commissioner (828) 275-8662

The Humane Alliance of Western North Carolina in partnership with Buncombe County Government, the Mimi Paige Foundation and PetSmart Charities announced the kickoff of the **Community Cat Program**.

Thanks to a grant from PetSmart Charities, this program, administered by the Humane Alliance, offers **FREE** spay/neuter and rabies vaccinations for outdoor, community cats in Buncombe County. There are an estimated 40,000 stray or community cats in Buncombe County, an estimated 28,000 are being fed and cared for by the community and most are having kittens year after year.

This program should be the critical next step for these community cats and the people who take care of them. This free spay/neuter, rabies vaccination program will help residents who are feeding outdoor cats come into compliance with local ordinances, decrease the number of cats and kittens reproducing each year and decrease the destructive and annoying behaviors associated like marking and yowling. This program will also help decrease the numbers of cats and kittens entering Buncombe County Animal Shelter each year.

The program is simple. Residents simply pick up a trap, capture the cat and bring it to the Humane Alliance where it will be spayed/neutered and vaccinated and then return the cat to the community and the trap to the Alliance. Everyone wins when they work together. The animal community in Buncombe has come together to try and solve the unfortunate problem of cat over population in our County.

Residents interested in learning more about this program can contact the Humane Alliance of WNC at **828 450-7550** or go to their website at humanealliance.org.

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Humane Alliance of WNC is a nationally recognized non-profit organization that focuses on high-volume, high-quality, low-cost companion animal sterilization.

Kathy Hughes, NCCCC

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"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle."