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Posted: Saturday, June 30, 2018 6:12 pm

By Rachel Rosenbaum / rrosenbaum@appealdemocrat.com

More than 100 Marysville pets received vaccinations Saturday as part of the police department's "big fix" clinic.

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In an effort to address the large population of stray and feral cats, the Marysville Police Department has partnered with FieldHaven Feline Center of Lincoln to offer vaccine and microchip clinics, community education about controlling the stray population, and trap-andrelease programs.

The clinic on Saturday was the kickoff event for future efforts, and residents lined up in the heat for \$5 vaccines and \$5 microchipping for cats and dogs. Yuba County Animal Care Services – which also partners with FieldHaven – was also in attendance for county residents (with \$10-\$15 for services).

Helen Rickertsen and her son Ethyn brought their new dog, Dozer, to the clinic because he needed shots; they've only had him about a month.

"It's a really cool resource," Rickertsen said. "It's helpful, people may not know where to go ... I think it's well put together.

Gregory Burnett and his wife brought their three cats Buddy, Gracie and Rosie to the clinic for vaccinations. They usually make appointments at the vet, but said the clinic

"It seemed easier to get it done all at once," Burnett said. "There's a lot of people who probably couldn't afford to go to the vet ... this is a better option for those people.

Marysville Police Chief Chris Sachs said there will be at least five more clinics throughout the next year, and those on fixed-incomes and homeless can apply to waive the costs. He said the animal care services recently established under the department is not full operational yet, and they're still searching for an animal control truck for their parttime officer.

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Racehl Rosenbaum/Appeal-Democrat

# 'Big Fix in Meowysville' clinic

Dr. Roberta Peterson, left, and Daisy Ortega of FieldHaven Feline Center administer a vaccine to Gracie the cat at the "Big Fix in Meowysville" clinic on Saturday, June 30, 2018.

was more convenient since they work during the week



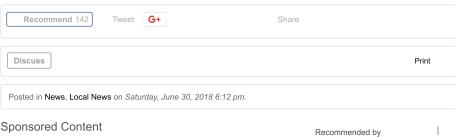
But they're hitting the ground running: they aim to trap, neuter and release 100 feral cats in 100 days, and start the educational program.

Joy Smith, executive director of FieldHaven, said they hope to offer traps to loan to residents within feral cat "hotspots" - like at the State Theater on E Street - and they are currently in need of volunteers to drive the cats to FieldHaven in Lincoln.

FieldHaven will neuter and release the cats and transfer kittens into its foster program. Smith said they've already helped the animal shelter change its 80 percent kill rate of cats to an 88 percent live release rate.

"Seeing such a big line and people lining up at 7 a.m. shows there was definitely a need for this in Marysville," Sachs said. "I'm glad that we can provide low-cost vaccinations and microchipping to the residents of our city, and it wouldn't be possible without FieldHaven."

Of the 126 pets total that received vaccinations at the clinic, 80 were also microchipped, Sachs said.



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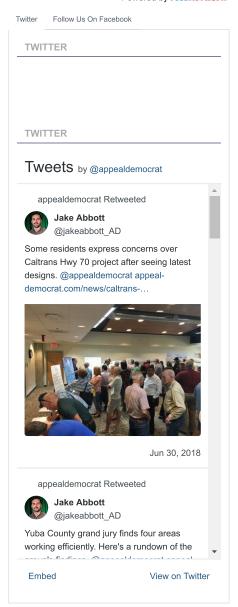
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