



In Canada, each year more than 90% of the shelter animals euthanized are cats. This amounts to 80 – 100,000 cats annually who die because they have been abandoned by their owners, are stray, or are born in feral colonies (cats who have returned to or been bred in the wild). **Twice** as many cats as dogs end up in shelters in our country. However, if abandoned stray and feral cats were not able to breed over and over again, this population boom would be drastically reduced.

A nervous kitten rummaging through a dumpster may actually be an adult cat so chronically starved that it never developed fully. How many times do spring's melting snow banks expose the emaciated frozen body of a cat? We must step up and address the cause of this suffering.

In cooperation with the **Georgian Triangle Humane Society Blue Mountain Veterinary Services** (BMVS) has created a comprehensive plan to tackle our community's exploding stray/feral cat population. This plan involves introducing a humane trap/sterilize/vaccinate/release program. Similar programs have proven extremely effective in other populated areas across the country, organically decreasing feral cat populations by more than 30% in as little as two years.

BMVS will be using donations from our suppliers such as viral tests\*, syringes and needles. We are hoping that suppliers will also donate much-needed Rabies vaccines. Our BMVS staff will be volunteering their time to test, vaccinate and spay/neuter these cats, and BMVS will be matching, or exceeding, donations by absorbing costs.

But, it's not enough. We need *your* help.

We are having a launch on August 25 th, venue to be announced. (Please watch for updates at [www.bluemountainvet.ca](http://www.bluemountainvet.ca) ) At this time we will be presenting the program in detail and will be accepting volunteers.

Help us put right a situation that has been ignored for too long.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tina Gray

\*Cats which test positive for deadly infectious viruses will be humanely euthanized rather than released.