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Levy County spay-neuter community cat program starts on January 25



Needles, the community cat of the unrecorded subdivision known as Jemlands, rests in an outdoor recliner on a porch next to The Ink Pad. He was named Needles because he blends in with pine needles in the area. Needles the community cat is the poster cat for this program, having been trapped, neutered, vaccinated and returned to the wild. The cat remains feral to the point of being a community cat versus a domestic indoor cat. Notice his left ear is missing its the top. All feral cats in this program will have their ears tipped after they are spayed or neutered.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 10, 2018 at 9:37 p.m.

LEVY COUNTY – Levy County Animal Services (LCAS) is scheduled to begin its once-a-month spay/neuter program for feral cats on Jan. 25.

LCAS Administrative Assistant Bridgett Domenico said this program is being offered to Levy County residents only.

The first month there will be 10 cats fixed, she said. This is going to be by appointment. The first 10 community cats scheduled and delivered are the limit for the first round.

Cats that are scheduled for surgery must be brought to the LCAS facility in a cat trap the day before the appointment is scheduled.

Cat traps will be distributed at the LCAS location, next to the Solid Waste Transfer Station between Bronson and Williston. There is a \$25 deposit for each trap. A person

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can pick up as many as four traps at a time.

There are limits to the number of cats per family allowed in this program however other community members within a subdivision may participate in the catch-spay-release program too.

The day after surgery, the cats will be picked up by the persons who brought them in. The person will take the cat back to the place where the cat was trapped, and that is where the cat is to be released.

All cats in this program will have one ear clipped to make it easy for people to see that cat is not in the business of making kittens anymore. This program is seen as a method to reduce the cat population that is leading to animals having to be euthanized.

This program is for feral cats that have reached the point of being community cats, where someone is feeding them.

This program is NOT for domestic cats that are family pets.

All cats spayed or neutered in this program will receive a one-year rabies vaccination as well.

For more information about this program for community cats, or to schedule an appointment, please call Levy County Animal Services at 352-486-5138.

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## PROGRAM FOR PETS

The Critter Crusaders of North Central Florida have partnered with Pay To Spay Inc. to offer a certain number of spay-neuter procedures for cats in February.

This program is different than the one by the county, which is for community cats. This program is for pet cats.

The \$28 fee includes spaying or neutering and a rabies vaccination.

To see about the Critter Crusaders' program, look at one of that group's ads on *HardisonInk.com*. If you click on that ad, it will open a window on the Critter Crusaders' website.



**Goldy the cat Hardison, the senior mascot for *HardisonInk.com* shows that she has both tips of her ears.**

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**This indoor cat was spayed years ago, thanks to the Levy County Human Society having a raffle and Goldy's owners Jeff and Sharon Hardison, buying the winning ticket.**



**Inky the cat Hardison, the junior mascot for *HardisonInk.com* and another indoor pet cat, is a gift from Dr. Ronald Spink – The Family Pet Vet of Chiefland. Sharon Hardison expressed her opinion after a number of years when Goldy was the only cat in the house that she needed a cat to pal around with while her two human pets were out making money and the like. Inky was among the cats Dr. Spink had available for free and Jeff Hardison accepted Inky into the family. Inky was spayed when she was adopted. Both Inky and Goldy are wonderful mascots for the daily news website.**

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**Inky's eyes are seen (above and to the left of the keyboard) as she looks out from beneath a metal shell that holds up a computer monitor and provides a place to slide in a keyboard. Inky is very good at finding places to hide. Another trick where Inky shows off is by removing her collar and placing it in the middle of a room so that anyone who did not notice she had removed her collar will see that, and refasten it around her neck.**