

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of Felines to Offer Midwest's First Mobile Rescue Unit

Friends of Felines, a 501c(3) non-profit rescue group located in Sedgwick County, KS, is moving forward on a project to build one of the first emergency mobile rescue units for cats in the Midwest. The goal is to rescue people's pets and to reunite them with their owners.

Joanne Clevenger donated a 20-foot enclosed trailer to Friends of Felines to begin its project. This trailer will be renovated and outfitted with food, water, radio communications, and medical supplies necessary to go into a disaster area like Greensburg, KS, to both rescue and provide first aid to cats. Their rescue efforts will be done in conjunction with state and local authorities and FEMA.

This project is three fold: first, they need to certify enough volunteers to staff the unit in case of an emergency; second, they need to retrofit the inside of the trailer as a mobile rescue facility for cats; and third, they need to secure a truck capable of pulling the trailer. Friends of Felines needs to certify 25 volunteers through ICS 100/200 classes, which can be done online. Volunteers also need to be certified in first aid, which has been arranged by Friends of Felines with a local vet. Both certifications are available at no cost. Once these volunteers are certified, Friends of Felines can apply for various state and federal grants that will be needed for the trailer renovation. Estimated cost is approximately \$5,000. In addition, Friends of Felines is seeking a corporate sponsor or individual willing to provide a truck suitable to pull this 4,000-pound trailer.

Since no one can predict when or where the unit will be needed, Friends of Felines has set a goal to certify a minimum of 25 people. This will ensure there are enough volunteers available during an emergency. Once the unit is operational, the group will notify each Emergency Management County Office of its existence, Friends of Felines' willingness to respond to their request for assistance, and that the group does not charge for services rendered.

If you are interested in volunteering, please go to <http://www.felinefriendsks.com/getinvolved.html> and sign up to receive more information. Corporate sponsors and/or sources for the truck can contact Wayne Roberts at wayne@felinefriendsks.com.

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