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CATalyst Council adds support to “Fix Felines by Five Months” initiative

(ANNAPOLIS, Maryland) December 20, 2016—In an effort to reduce unwanted litters while ensuring optimal feline health and welfare, the Catalyst Council has endorsed the Veterinary Task Force on Feline Sterilization consensus statement regarding spaying and neutering cats and kittens prior to five months of age.

In addition to the CATalyst Council, several organizations such as the Winn Feline Foundation, Cat Fanciers' Association and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians are supporting the statement to promote consistency among veterinarians as they educate the public about the optimum time to spay and neuter cats.

The CATalyst Council applauds the efforts of Esther Mechler, founder and executive director of Marian's Dream and a major force behind “Fix Felines by Five Months,” as the initiative is known.

“Fewer unwanted litters will mean reduced risk of relinquishment to shelters,” Ms. Mechler says, “and when the surgery is performed before five months of age there is also a greatly reduced risk of mammary gland cancer in female cats.” “The scientific basis and collaborative efforts of the ‘Fix Felines by Five Months’ Veterinary Task Force are aligned with CATalyst Council’s focus on evidence-based initiatives, and if the population of unowned and frequently unwanted cats can be reduced, communities and cats will benefit,” says Jane Brunt, DVM, executive director of the CATalyst Council. “We are proud to endorse this important initiative.”

To view the Veterinary Task Force on Feline Sterilization consensus statement, visit www.felinefixbyfive.org

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CATalyst Council is a non-profit organization which includes a wide variety of animal health associations, welfare organizations, and corporate members of the animal health industry which are working together to improve the health and welfare of America’s favorite pet. It was founded in response to troubling statistics released by the American Veterinary Medical Association showing an increase in U.S. pet cat population coupled with a decline in veterinary care. CATalyst Council’s mission is to “connect and collaborate to advance the health, welfare and value of companion cats.” More information about CATalyst Council is available at www.catalystcouncil.org.

Since 1981, Marian's Dream has led initiatives to improve the health and well-being of companion animals by creating and supporting programs to end pet overpopulation by preventing unwanted litters. A fundamental belief is that change is made on the ground, with the hard work of grass-roots organizations and volunteers. Learn more at www.mariansdream.org.