

## Oregon Town Overrun with Cats

**The town of Echo began a trap, spay and release program to help alleviate the problem of stray cats roaming neighborhoods.**

Concerned with an ever-growing population of feral cats, the tiny eastern Oregon town of Echo is offering residents \$85 toward the spaying of wild cats that are roaming the city.

To take advantage of the offer, residents must agree to a few conditions: First, they must catch the cat, then transport it to the vet clinic, pick it up afterward and release it to let it live out the rest of its natural life.

To get the voucher, residents must go to City Hall and sign an agreement. Then, they may begin trapping.

Echos city manager Diane Berry told the Associated Press that she is one of a handful of people who have already signed up for the program.

Echo, which is located about 60 miles southwest of Walla Walla, Wash., has a population of 650. Posted: April 6, 2006, 5:00 a.m. EST