

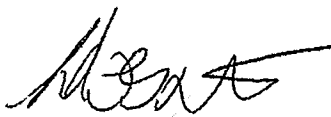
January 23, 2023

To whom it may concern,

In order to support animal welfare in the state of Maine I have been working with the Cat Coalition of Western Maine for over 3 years. The work that they have done to help control the population of cats in Maine has been irreplaceable. There are not many resources to help people with their abilities, most local shelters are overwhelmed with numbers of animals and don't offer the same flexibility or support as this organization does.

As a veterinarian I have seen the costs increasing for routine surgeries and a lot of people are turning to options for lower cost spay/neuter programs. There has become more of a financial limitation to animal ownership, that I feel opens up the need to continue these programs even more so now. The Help Fix Me program has enabled CCOWM with the support of veterinarians to provide a valuable service to people and animals. I feel my time spent contributing to this cause has been very gratifying, and has however small, eased some burden from the veterinary profession and bridged some gap in affordable care for animals.

There are limitations to continuing clinics mainly in the form of expenses in both supplies, time, and professional skills. A tremendous amount of effort and compassion goes into clinic by the CCOWM group and all involved. To be paid consistently, fairly, and timely are a large part of this and continuing veterinary involvement. I hope to help support the important work this and other groups do for animal welfare in Maine.



Sarah Doucette, DVM

Norway Veterinary Hospital

10 Main St. Norway, ME