

I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors + posted online.

Date: 8/10/26

Contact Information

Organization Name: Stray Cat Blues, Inc.

Address: PO Box 8, Colmar PA 18915

Phone: 610-613-1621

Website: <https://www.straycatblues.org/>

Year Incorporated: 1997

FEIN: 23-2943833

ED/CEO Name: Denise Bash, ED

ED/CEO E-mail: denise.bash@straycatblues.org

Board Chair Name: Jerry Kalick, Board President

Board Chair Approval (check here): ✓

Primary Contact Name: Jessica Buck, Grants Volunteer

Primary Contact E-mail: jessica.buck@straycatblues.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

☐	Arts, Culture, Heritage	☐	Education, Library	☒	Environment, Animals
☐	Health	☐	Human Services	☐	Social Justice, Civic Engagement
☐	Religion	If other, please describe:			

Mission: To rescue stray and abandoned cats and kittens located primarily in Montgomery, Bucks, Chester and other suburban Philadelphia counties, and find them safe and appropriate homes. We envision a community where our cat population is controlled through spaying or neutering, and all cats and kittens have safe places to live and thrive.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

Southeast PA including all of Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, Berks, and surrounding counties

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. (Include Chester County # &/or % served.)

In 2025, Stray Cat Blues, Inc. (SCB) adopted cats to 68 Chester County families, supported 19 volunteers based in Chester County (including 13 residential foster homes), and answered requests for assistance across Chester County to assist with intake of stray and abandoned cats as well as TNR (trap-neuter-return) of feral community cats. Overall in 2025, including all of the geographic areas that SCB serves, SCB was proud to rescue 1,179 cats, adopt out 1,123 cats, and provide TNR services to 1,115 colony cats (of which 547 were brought into foster care). Of the 1,179 intakes, 817 were kittens, 211 were adolescents, 101 adults and 50 senior cats. As a no-kill rescue, SCB is extremely proud to maintain a 98% save rate. SCB continues to recruit, train and support 265 volunteers across the region, who assist with numerous organized volunteer programs and teams across all aspects of the organization.

Annual Budget \$614,500

84 % of budget for program expenses

15 % of budget for administrative expenses

1 % of budget for fundraising expenses

2 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

4 # of Board Volunteers

265 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

Unknown # of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Top donors in 2025:
PetSMART Charities \$35,000
Orphan Kitten Club \$10,000
Shepherd Family Charitable Foundation \$10,000

This grant proposal is for: ☒ Direct Service Programs & General Operating &/or ☐ Capacity Building

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

☐	Contingency Planning	☐	Partnerships, Collaborations	☐	Merger, Closure
☐	Mission, Vision, Strategy	☐	Board Engagement & Leadership	☐	Marketing, Communication
☐	Resource Development	☐	Operations	☐	Technology
☐	If other, please describe:				

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$7,500

Proposal Summary: (a few sentences, please)

Stray Cat Blues, Inc. SCB will use this funding to support and expand cat rescue efforts in Chester County by increasing responses to residents requesting help with stray, abandoned, and surrendered cats. Funding will directly support the veterinary medical care, both routine pre-adoption vetting and emergency care for rescue cats, improving animal welfare and benefiting Chester County residents.

II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information in 1-3 pages. Please be brief.

1. Nonprofit's overall aims, key initiatives, key achievements & distinctiveness

Since 1991, Stray Cat Blues (SCB) has served as a leader in no-kill cat rescue in southeast Pennsylvania. With 265 active volunteers, under the direction of a volunteer Board of Directors and a full-time Executive Director, Foster Home Coordinator, and Operations & Technology Coordinator, SCB is proud to rescue approximately 1,200 cats annually. SCB operates out of Montgomery County, serving the neighboring counties. Our mission is to rescue stray and abandoned cats and kittens located primarily in Montgomery, Chester, Bucks and other suburban Philadelphia counties, and find them safe and appropriate homes. SCB envisions a community where our cat population is controlled through spaying or neutering, and all cats and kittens have safe places to live and thrive. We feel that the mission of SCB directly aligns with the mission of the Burket-Plack Foundation, for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

In addition to cat rescue of adoptable cats, SCB is proud to provide extensive trap-neuter-return (TNR) services in the community. TNR improves the welfare of community cats while benefiting the communities that care for them. SCB is proud to support ever-increasing rescue and TNR numbers, from 300 cats in 2021 to 1,115 cats impacted in 2025! Last year, 547 of the cats trapped at colony sites were brought into foster homes for adoption! TNR not only includes sterilization of feral cats, but intake of adoptable kittens from colonies, and shelter diversion. Our TNR efforts directly correlate with lives saved, and colony feeders benefited through low cost support, reducing the barriers to humane population control and improved animal welfare.

SCB operates a “working cats” program, for undersocialized cats that are not suited for indoor adoption. This program provides lifesaving measures for cats that otherwise may face euthanasia in area shelters, or displacement. This program pairs fully vetted undersocialized or feral cats with suitable farm or non-traditional homes, where they will be cared for and safe. This effort supports our mission to ensure the best outcome for every cat within our care. SCB also runs the [Whiskers Way Station](#) (WWS), opened in 2018, a brick and mortar shelter facility that serves as a “halfway house” for cats requiring additional care or socialization prior to adoption. Utilizing a “home environment” setting, this special shelter environment sets SCB apart from other shelter facilities. The WWS can facilitate up to 20 cats at a time, supported by expert cat-socializers that work seven days a week with the cats at the facility.

In 2025, there were 183 dedicated volunteer foster homes in the SCB network. Of the 1,179 cats that came into foster care last year, 817 were kittens, 211 adolescents, 101 adults, and 50 seniors. SCB is extremely proud of our 98% save rate!

2. Funding request

Funding through this program will provide critical general operating support for Stray Cat Blues' (SCB) pre-adoption veterinary care program, ensuring that approximately 1,200 cats rescued annually receive essential veterinary medical treatment prior to adoption. This includes both routine vetting and emergency care for sick or injured rescue cats. This funding will directly support the baseline medical care that every cat must receive to be healthy and adoptable including spay/neuter surgeries, microchipping, vaccinations, parasite prevention, and deworming, and treatment above and beyond the routine vetting. Every cat within our care receives full vetting prior to adoption.

Veterinary expenses remain the most significant and limiting factor in animal rescue. This project facilitates collaboration amongst our rescue, local communities, and veterinary partners to facilitate incredible rescue successes. The average cost of vetting one healthy cat is \$230, which is only partially covered by the adoption fee in an effort to keep adoption affordable by decreasing the barrier of cost to animal rescue. Many rescue cats incur greater expenses for treatment, hospitalization, surgeries or lifesaving medical care prior to adoption. Last year, 58 cats required medical procedures above standard pre-adoption vet services. Through extensive fundraising efforts, SCB was able to cover 69% of the expenses associated with these extraordinary medical procedures through donations. SCB volunteers work hard to apply for grants and solicit donations to ensure that every cat receives the critical care they need to survive and thrive.

Pre-adoption veterinary care is essential. Cats entering rescue often arrive with unknown medical histories, exposure to contagious illnesses, parasites, and the cumulative effects of living outdoors or in unstable conditions. Without proper vetting, these cats would face compromised health outcomes, increased risk to other animals, and barriers to successful adoption.

Across the animal welfare sector, veterinary costs have risen dramatically in recent years due to inflation, staffing shortages, increased demand, and rising pharmaceutical prices. SCB has experienced these increases firsthand. The average cost to fully vet one healthy, adoptable cat has risen to approximately \$320 per cat, even when working closely with partner veterinarians and accessing discounted services where possible. Medical expenses are now the single greatest limiting factor in animal rescue. Despite rising costs, Stray Cat Blues is deeply committed to keeping adoption fees affordable. SCB recognizes that high adoption fees can become a barrier, particularly for families and individuals in underserved communities who want to provide loving homes but cannot absorb the full cost of veterinary care upfront. By keeping adoption fees accessible, SCB increases adoption rates, prevents cats from lingering in foster care, expands the pool of potential adopters, and ultimately is able to intake more cats and save more lives. However, affordable adoption fees do not come close to covering the true cost of rescue. This intentional choice to keep rescue affordable places increased pressure on fundraising and operating budgets, making philanthropic support absolutely essential.

Funding through the Chester County Foundation donors will help to bridge this gap, allowing SCB to maintain high medical standards while ensuring that adoption remains attainable for the community. Just as importantly, by covering essential medical expenses, this funding will free up additional resources that can be redirected toward rescuing more cats in urgent need, emergency medical cases, and support for our amazing, dedicated foster volunteers. In this way, the impact of the funding extends far beyond the individual cats directly supported - it strengthens SCB's overall rescue capacity and multiplies lives saved.

Evaluation of project success will be directly measured through rescue statistics. SCB utilizes an online internal database called Animals First to track all cat intakes and adoptions, as well as partners with Shelter Animal Count, for sharing of nationwide data. The number of cats rescued, adopted, requests for assistance answered, number of cats served through TNR, and number of volunteers recruited, trained and supported in Chester County will be the primary indicator of success of this project. Metrics are tracked daily and evaluated monthly. Volunteers, the Executive Director and the Board of Directors will be responsible for evaluation of the success of the project, and completion of all grant reporting requirements. Evaluation of the project results will be used to help shape future SCB projects, programs, outreach efforts and future goals. The evaluation results are published in an annual report, as well as online on the SCB website, and reported in the nationwide Shelter Animal Count. SCB maintains a strong social media presence as well, and grant projects and funders are acknowledged and publicized through social media channels, as appropriate.

Together, we can continue to reduce suffering, prevent needless deaths, and build a future where every rescued cat is given the care and dignity they deserve, while supporting local communities. Grant funding will allow SCB to continue to expand its mission to save more lives in the community, specifically Chester-County focused, through support by the Chester County Foundation donors. Thank you for your consideration of this request for support!

III. ATTACHMENTS

Email this support information. If it is on your website, please provide the URL.

1. Copy of **501 (c) (3)** federal tax-exempt letter
 2. List of **Board** of Directors, with their affiliations: **URL:** <https://www.straycatblues.org/who-we-are>
 3. Most recent **annual report**
 4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement**
 5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
 6. If capacity building initiative, **itemized budget** (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
 7. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why**.
- Visit our website to learn more at www.chescocf.org
 - Proposals are only accepted electronically: <https://chescocf.org/receive/apply-for-grants/>
 - **Email proposals to grants@chescocf.org**
 - Proposals are considered "complete" when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments**.
 - Proposals are shared electronically and online with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.
 - Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax-exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & cannot be individuals.

Please contact Kevin Baffa, Grants Administrator
at **(610) 696-8211** or grants@chescocf.org with any questions.

*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their philanthropy makes a difference, now & forever.*