



ALLEY CAT RESCUE

ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION

Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of cats everywhere.

www.SaveACat.org • 301-277-5595 • PO Box 96499, Washington, DC 20077

COMMUNITY CAT OVERPOPULATION OVERVIEW

The estimated number of community cats in the United States is around 20 to 30 million. Groups like Alley Cat Rescue have been working on trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs for many years, not only doing the actual hands-on work but also assisting others in many states to implement these programs. The conditions that created the crisis in the first place - unaltered community cats, unaltered pet cats, and people dumping unwanted cats continue. These are tougher to change. ACR has offered low cost spay neuter, plus on our website we have a directory of low-cost spay/neuter clinics in every state.

Cats are prolific breeders that can have multiple litters over time. Mathematical analysis of statistics related to cat reproduction produces the estimate that one unaltered free-roaming female cat will produce a colony of 136 cats in 4 years and 2,880 in 7 years.¹ This calculation holds whether the original female is an indoor/outdoor pet, a domesticated community cat, or a feral cat who was born on the streets.

Feral cats in managed colonies thrive, mostly because they have been vaccinated and sterilized, and are fed regularly by their caretakers. A cat living without human intervention in an urban environment faces the threat of hunger daily as they are carnivores and must compete with one another for food that is already scarce in cities and towns. Many scavenge in dumpsters for human food that is thrown away.

Community cats are also at risk of being euthanized at shelters because they are not adoptable. Even adoptable cats like strays who were raised by humans or have lived closely amongst humans and can be handled are frequently euthanized due to lack of space at shelters. Therefore, the more cats there are brought to shelters, the more will be euthanized to make room. Of the 3 million cats and dogs euthanized in shelters each year, approximately 2.4 million (80%) are healthy or treatable and could have been adopted into new homes.³

TNR is the key to ending cat overpopulation, thereby saving cats from suffering. The 2019 Alley Cat Rescue Community Cat Survey of colony caretakers and TNR groups across



Sooty, Cinnamon and Patchouli

the U.S. revealed that the number of kitten births within the respondents' colonies had greatly declined since the caretakers began TNR; prior to TNR, slightly over 40% of respondents reported having more than 20 kittens at a time in their colonies, and after implementing TNR about 68% of them reported having five or fewer kittens in their colonies.

TNR is not solely a means of population control. It also benefits community cats greatly. Many common cat diseases can be spread from one cat to another. Many common viruses that a house cat could get over in a couple of weeks can be deadly for an alley cat that doesn't have access to antibiotics and clean food and water. TNR programs usually include vaccination along with sterilization. In ACR's 2019 Community Cat survey, the overwhelming majority of responders (86%) said that they vaccinate against rabies, while 71% said they vaccinate for distemper, 73% said they deworm, and 77% said they treat cats for fleas.

Continued on page 5...

From the Desk of Louise Holton

ACR has been successfully operating our African Wildcat (AWC) Conservation Action Plan in the Kruger National Park region for 2.5 years, thanks to a generous grant from Jon Ayres Wild Cat Conservation Trust. The purpose of this project has been to protect the Wildcat species (*Felis lybica cafra*), which is threatened by hybridization with unsterilized domestic cats, using trap-neuter-return of domestic cats. Prior to this project, we worked on the border of the Pilanesberg Game Reserve to sterilize the stray and feral cats living on the Sun City Property that shares a fence with the Reserve. African wildcats live in the Pilanesberg Reserve, as well as in other national parks.

We have sterilized almost 2,500 domestic cats around Kruger National Park while also educating community members about the importance of spaying/neutering pet cats. ACR will expand the AWC Conservation Action Plan to 12 other South African national parks in order to have a larger scale, more wide-spread effect on preserving the purity of AWCs.

The 12 national parks where we will implement the AWC Conservation Action Plan will be selected based upon:

- their AWC population density
- the (estimated) prevalence of hybridization in the area
- the surrounding towns' economic standing, as poorer communities typically lack access to education and awareness about animal welfare

Your kitty's wild ancestors!

The African Wildcat is the ancestor of our beloved pet cats! Threatened by hybridization and human encroachment into their habitats, it is not known how many pure AWCs exist today because they are extremely elusive, nocturnal and solitary, and very well camouflaged.¹ We need to take action now to end hybridization. Alley Cat Rescue is able to do that. We are the only group in the world with an Action Plan to save this iconic species.

The AWC is a natural part of environments throughout most of Africa. Their predation of small mammals is essential to their habitats as it prevents overpopulation of animals such as rodents and rabbits, which could consume excessive amounts of vegetation when their populations are not controlled.



Photo by Scotch Macaskill



Louise

Louise Holton
President/Founder

If you wish to support this project, please mark your donation "African Wildcat Project!"

MEET THE ACR TEAM!

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Planned Giving - Annuities

Annuities can help you reach your personal financial goals while serving your commitment to our work helping cats. Enjoy tax saving and turn appreciated assets into income for yourself. Charitable gift annuities allow you to make a gift of \$10,000 or more and receive fixed interest payments for life, as well as tax deductions. For more information, contact your financial planner or get in touch with us:

Alley Cat Rescue
Phone: 301-277-5595
Email: acr@saveacat.org
Mail: PO Box 585, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712

Wills and Bequests

You can support our work for cats far into the future by including Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. in your estate plans. This will ensure that your love and care for cats continues on and provides you with the peace of mind that your legacy will help cats in need. Contact your financial planner to determine the best way to support Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. in your estate plan.

Suggested bequest language: "I give (specific dollar amount or property) to Alley Cat Rescue, Inc., having its principal office at 3906 Rhode Island Ave., Brentwood, MD 20722, for its general purpose to help stray, abandoned, and feral cats and kittens. Tax ID: 52-2279100."

THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING A *PET PROTECTION AGREEMENT*

All of us have spent at least a little time worrying about the wellbeing of our pets if and when we are no longer here to care for them. Whether you are taking precautions in case of an unfortunate event, or planning for the future, creating a Pet Protection Agreement will ensure good care for your current and future furry family members.

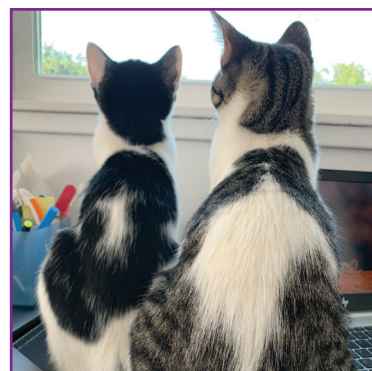
One of the most important benefits of having a Pet Protection Agreement is that you decide what individual(s) will be entrusted with the care of your pet. If a caretaker passes away or becomes incapacitated without formally assigning their pet to someone, the pet's care is passed on to their next-of-kin, who often take the animal to a shelter where its health and happiness are not assured. When establishing a Pet Protection Agreement, consult with the loved one(s) to whom you want to leave your pet. Let them know your plans and wishes and make sure they agree to them before making it official.

Another great benefit of a Pet Protection Agreement is that you can set up funds to provide for your pet when you are gone. This assures that your pet will be cared for to your high standards without burdening their new caretaker. If you want to leave a substantial amount of money for pet's care, you may consider setting up a Pet Trust, which is a more formal version of a Pet Protection Agreement that should be written by an attorney who has experience with pet-related estate planning.

Through a Pet Protection Agreement, you are also able to donate any funds that outlast the life of your pet to go to the charity(ies) of your choice to continue your legacy of compassion.

It is important to note that a Pet Protection Agreement or Pet Trust is separate from a will. Willed assets require a probate hearing, which could take years and the person you've designated cannot take over care of your pet and the associated funds until the hearing is complete. That is why leaving your pet's future in a will is not a desirable option.

For more information and to begin setting up a Pet Protection Agreement visit www.legalzoom.com/personal/estate-planning/pet-protection-agreement-overview.html.



AUSTRALIA'S MISGUIDED SOLUTIONS TO OVERPOPULATION

For over five years now, the Australian government has been under fire from international cat welfare groups for its use of poisons, shooting, and bounty offers to get a handle on its cat overpopulation problem. The government and some environmentalists are concerned about the feral cats' predation on native and threatened species and when the sanctioning of cat-culling began, they believed there were around 20 million feral cats in Australia. However, since that time the estimate has been dramatically revised to somewhere around 2.2 million, yet the government continues to encourage and fund cat eradication.

One can get an unpleasant glimpse into the mindset of some of these leaders from House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy chair and Fairfax MP Ted O'Brien, is quoted by ABC Australia as saying the 2020 Federal parliamentary inquiry into overpopulation would approach the problem with an "independent, sort of dispassionate look at it all." But these cats deserve compassion, *especially* considering that they were introduced to Australia in the first place by people (European settlers) and were even brought here in large numbers specifically for rodent control. Add to that the fact there are an estimated 3.8 million owned cats in Australia, many of whom are free-roaming, who are equally responsible for predation of wildlife and it becomes clear that *people* are the true culprits in this scenario.

Ironically, due to the abundance of resources following an unusually rainy 2020, the large Australian state of New South Wales is experiencing an overpopulation crisis from mice. The infestation is seriously affecting the farming community there as the mice are eating or contaminating tens of thousands of dollars' worth of their crops. The mice are also becoming a direct health hazard, biting hospital patients!

NSW Agriculture Minister Adam Marshall has proposed an

unnatural, short-sighted plan to use an extremely powerful poison (he called it "the most powerful poison that we can get our hands on") called bromadiolone. Marshall has sought urgent approval from the Commonwealth's APVMA to have and use bromadiolone, but many people are cautioning that such a potent poison will also kill the animals that prey on the mice. Charles Sturt University ecologist, Maggie Watson says the poison is "just too dangerous" for use anywhere in the environment. She warned "You could completely reduce the population of [native] birds of prey." She didn't express concern over any feral or free-roaming cats being poisoned, but her point is well taken.

It is contradictory for the government to cull cats in order to protect natural wildlife yet risk natural wildlife in order to fix their mouse infestation. That aside, could it be any more obvious that a safer method of rodent control and certainly a more intelligent, humane way to deal with a significant portion of the feral cat population would be to relocate sterilized cats (from many different colonies/areas to avoid a vacuum effect) to this large region? Marshall has even brought up the need for an effective solution because booms in the mouse population are a recurring problem, and cats would be on the job probably before people even realized it was happening. But instead of killing two birds with one stone, environmental decision makers prefer to kill millions of cats... with shot guns.

CALL TO ACTION: Sign ACR's petition to APVMA CEO, Lisa Croft, urging her to bar the widespread use of bromadiolone as rat control for the safety of Australia's cats and wildlife. Go to savecat.org/action-alerts.html to sign today!

CRISIS ON THE ISLAND OF CATS

The Brazilian island of Furtada, also known as "Island of the Cats", is uninhabited by people and has no sources of freshwater, but it has become a dumping ground for people who no longer want or can care for their pet cats. The island has been home to colonies of cats for years, though it is not known how any cats first came to the island. Abandoned pets over the years have added to the early numbers. Not surprisingly, many cats who had once been pets are unable to survive on their own and die tragically. Even feral cats are in danger of starving or dying from dehydration with so much competition for resources and no drinkable water. COVID-19 has made the situation much worse as cat owners have found themselves financially unable to care for their pets and others have sadly passed away. Tourists who used to be a major source of food and water for the cats have not been

visiting due to lockdowns.

Individuals and groups of volunteers are doing their best to ease the suffering of the island's cats and prevent the

population from growing further. They bring the cats water and food and use TNR. These volunteers are fighting against the tide, with kittens being created and born every day and people still bringing cats to the island. In order to save as



Continued on page 5...

THE LATEST IN FIP TREATMENT MAY SAVE LIVES ~ PINTO BEAN'S STORY

Pinto Bean ("PB") was found in a backyard with his feral mom. All of the adults from the colony have been TNR'd and we put Pinto Bean with a foster.

For the first two months Pinto Bean was super playful and an incredibly affectionate kitten. Shortly after his two month birthday he was rushed to the vet with a high fever, trouble breathing and loss of weight. His rapid decline continued



and he was treated with medications including antibiotics, fluids and underwent diagnostic tests including bloodwork, X-Rays, echocardiogram, and an ultrasound. The fluid continued to build up in his chest cavity and to help him breathe better, some had to be removed and that was sent off for further testing.

Finally after extensive testing, Pinto received a positive result for

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP). This disease used to be incurable and fatal, but due to amazing research we now have a treatment available! It is not an easy treatment, however; the affected cat must receive an injection for 84 days, and then undergo another 84 days of observation. If there is a relapse they start the meds again. The medication requires specific injections and pain medications to make it as easy and painless as possible.

It took Pinto 10 days to start showing results, and those first few days were scary. Pinto needed to be hospitalized, given oxygen therapy, and had additional fluid drained from his chest to help with his breathing. But now, three weeks into his treatment, he has almost doubled his weight and is back being full of energy, purring up a storm, and cuddling. His most recent X-ray and blood tests were perfect and his vets are as thrilled as we are!

We have high hopes for Pinto Bean. The resources and effort we are putting in to get him through this disease will all be worth it to see him healthy with a long life of being spoiled ahead.

For more information about FIP and its treatment, visit <http://www.saveacat.org/fip-felv-fiv.html>.

COMMUNITY CAT OVERPOPULATION OVERVIEW

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What every cat lover can do to help

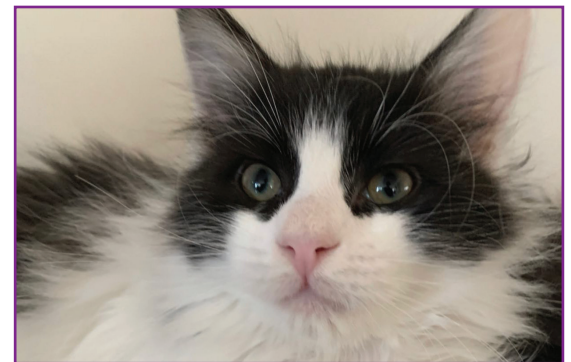
Everyone can play a part in solving cat overpopulation; actions done on an individual scale can add up to big changes. Here are some ways we can all contribute to the movement:

- **Spay/neuter your pet cats**
- **Clearly ID your cats** with a collar and tag. It's a good idea to microchip them too, in case their visible IDs get lost.
- **Keep up-to-date with your pet cat's vaccinations**
- **Support TNR** - There are so many ways to do this! You can donate to TNR groups, volunteer with one, advocate for TNR through letters and petitions to lawmakers, or all of the above.
- **Adopt** - If you have the ability to care for a cat, adopt one from a county shelter, particularly one that is not no-kill if possible, or rescue group instead of from a breeder. You will effectively be helping *two or more* cats this way by freeing up shelter space for another cat to be held.

¹ "How many kittens can one female cat produce?" *The Cat House on the Kings*, www.cathouseontheKings.com/docs/populationgrowth.php. Accessed 28 May 2021.

² Arrington, Amanda and Markarian, Michael "Serving Pets in Poverty: A New Frontier for the Animal Welfare Movement," *Sustainable Development Law & Policy*: Vol. 18 : Iss. 1, Article 11. Available at: <http://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/sdlp/vol18/iss1/11>

³ "Increasing survival rates of kittens." *Kitten Coalition*, <https://kittencoalition.org/news-events/statistics/>. Accessed 28 May 2021.



CRISIS ON THE ISLAND OF CATS

...continued from page 4

many cats as possible, they need larger-scale support.

The ACR 2020 Annual Report included a petition in support of a nonlethal program to address the overpopulation of cats on Furtada Island. We received nearly 800 signatures in response and have mailed a letter to Brazilian Ambassador, Nestor Forster, letting him know that each of the signees is urging him to advocate for federal funding from the Brazilian government to support the volunteer work being done to save the cats there. We will be monitoring news on the situation and sharing any important updates in our ENews and on our website.

RESCUE STORIES

When we rescued Ozzy along with his family, the end of his tail was badly injured to the point that it was almost falling off. He, like so millions of other kittens, was born on the streets, and his mom luckily brought the little family to the door of a team member of ACR. ACR took little Ozzy immediately to the vet, even though he was so young that his eyes had not even fully opened yet as it was urgent that the damaged part of his tail be removed. The surgery was a total success, Ozzy recovered without any complications!



Ozzy



Linus



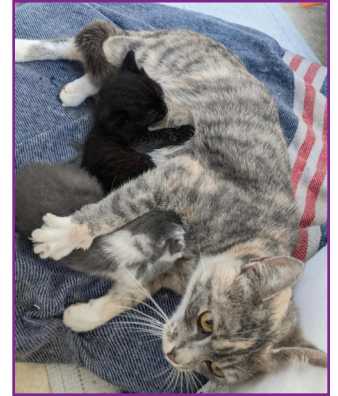
Atticus

Linus lived in a parking garage on his own for many months and was very dirty and super skinny and not doing well. Once he cleaned up we noticed that he was a beautiful flame point Siamese cat with beautiful blue eyes! He cleaned up beautifully and is super smart too. He loves treat balls and is quick to purr. He has now been adopted by a loving family that fosters for us too. It is a win-win for all and especially for this darling boy who deserves all the love in the world.

Atticus was picked up off the sidewalk at 2-3 days old, with his eyes still closed. He was the only surviving kitten in the colony and judging by his dirty, flea-ridden

condition, he was lucky to be alive. When Atticus was healthy enough, we introduced him to another orphan kitten, who became his playmate, Sheffield. The two bonded right away and Sheffield is helping Atticus' development. Atticus began to eat on his own after watching his best friend do it!

Jewel is a sweet, skinny girl who was found napping with her three week old kittens under a parked car in the hot summer weather. The babies were easy to grab, but our team spent four hours trying to catch mom and luckily, managed to get her just before a severe storm rolled in. The family is now safe and secure and mom no longer has to worry about food for her little family.



Jewel

Bubble Gum started off life weighing just over 50 grams and with careful monitoring and supportive care he has grown up into a beautiful sweet boy! He is two to three months behind his siblings and is finally getting his adult teeth and growing up. He is full of energy, and even babysitting some of the little fosters. He has been keeping them engaged and he was so good to them when a few got sick. He was super gentle with them. Having beaten seemingly impossible odds in his first months of life, Bubble Gum is ready to be adopted and we could not be more proud of our little guy!



Bubble Gum

STILL NEEDED: Used Car for Maryland

Alley Cat Rescue needs a vehicle in good condition that has enough room to transport several cat carriers together. We have an older van that we use for vet visits, TNR work, and carrying supplies, but it is becoming less and less reliable so we must replace it soon.

Do you have a vehicle to help us with our daily operations?

Please contact us to learn more about donating your vehicle. In addition to your contribution being tax-deductible, you will gain peace of mind knowing that your old vehicle is being used to save cats' lives! Call 301-277-5595 or Email acr@alleycatrescue.org.





**Thank you
for your
support!**

ORDER FORM

Name _____ Order Total \$ _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

| # | ITEM | PRICE | SIZE (Please Circle) | # OF ITEMS | TOTAL |
|----|--|-------|-------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | ACR Face Mask: White, Blue | \$8.5 | \$15 for 2 | | \$ |
| 2 | Zip Up Hoodie | \$35 | S M L XL 2XL | | \$ |
| 3 | T-shirt short sleeve: Storm, White, Teal, Lilac | \$25 | S M L XL 2XL | | \$ |
| 4 | T-shirt long sleeve: Smoke grey | \$30 | S M L XL 2XL | | \$ |
| 5 | Black V-neck T-shirt | \$20 | S M L | | \$ |
| 6 | Black long sleeve T-shirt | \$25 | S M L XL 2XL | | \$ |
| 7 | African Wildcat T-shirt | \$16 | M L XL | | \$ |
| 8 | Canvas Handbag: Grey, Blue, Black | \$12 | N/A | | \$ |
| 9 | African Wildcat Shoulder Tote Bag | \$10 | N/A | | \$ |
| 10 | Alley Cat Rescue's Guide to Managing Community Cats Paperback Book | \$6 | N/A | | \$ |
| 11 | ACR Bracelet | \$10 | S M L | | \$ |
| 12 | African Wildcat Bracelet - Help save the African Wildcat | \$10 | S M L | | \$ |

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|-------------------|--------------|
| SUB TOTAL | \$ |
| Sales Tax | +\$ |
| Shipping** | +7.00 |
| Donation | +\$ |
| TOTAL | \$ |

Please send checks made out to Alley Cat Rescue or provide your credit card information below.

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Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

***There is a flat shipping rate of \$7.00 for ALL purchases.
All donations are tax-deductible.*

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NATIONAL NEWS

As part of ACR's Alliance for Cat Protection, we seek to support other rescue groups helping cats. To this end, we have provided grants for TNR to groups in Arizona, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In Maryland, we are reaching beyond our own projects to assist Alliance member Outlaw Kitties as well as the Prince George's County Animal Services. We believe strongly that working with and helping other cat welfare organizations will have the most widespread positive effects on populations of cats. Working cooperatively with others can help more cats.



CALL TO ACTION

The Big Cat Public Safety Act would protect big cats from exploitation and improper care by prohibiting private individuals from owning them as pets. It would also prohibit public interactions with cubs such as photo ops and petting. These measures not only would protect big cats from the physical and psychological harm typically experienced by privately owned wild animals, it would also protect people in the communities where others keep such "pets."

The bill is currently up for vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. It has been reintroduced since last year, when it was passed by the House but failed to come to a vote in the Senate. Big cats should be respected as wild animals, not bred and captured for the pleasure of individuals! Please contact your representatives and tell them to support the Big Cat Public Safety Act.

You can find your representatives and their contact information at: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

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