



# ALLEY CAT RESCUE

*An Alliance for Cat Protection*



Windsor, wounded orphan



Tatito, car strike



Bobo, broken arm



Mr. Cheeks, friendly feral find



Phoenix, engine burns



Puss'n'Boots, euthanasia list



Eve, broken ankle, MPS

## *Mission Statement*

Alley Cat Rescue is leading the way in promoting humane and compassionate care for all cats.

### *Our Work*

- Promote compassion and nonlethal care for ALL cats
- Help individuals locate free and low-cost spay/neuter programs
- Assist with cat behavioral problems to keep cats in their homes
- Educate the public about feline diseases and overpopulation
- Connect individuals with local TNR groups through our national Cat Action Teams list
- Protect the genetic integrity of the African Wildcat through TNR

### *Our Impact*

- Neuter-before-adoption
- Early-age spay/neuter
- TNR (trap-neuter-return)
- In-home Foster Care
- Annual Spring Spay Challenge for veterinarians
- Educational workshops and training

### *Follow Along & Stay in Touch*



[instagram.com/alleycatrescue](https://www.instagram.com/alleycatrescue)



[facebook.com/alleycatrescueinc](https://www.facebook.com/alleycatrescueinc)



[twitter.com/alleycatrescue](https://twitter.com/alleycatrescue)



[www.SaveACat.org](http://www.SaveACat.org)



[acr@saveecat.org](mailto:acr@saveecat.org)



301-277-5595

# From the Desk of Louise Holton

I call the plans put forth by the American Bird Conservancy and other environmental groups to remove outdoor cats from the U.S. landscape a “Dangerous Game.” Such action would not only be cruel, but could unleash unintended environmental consequences. Populations of prey animals could go unchecked, leading to a dramatic increase in their numbers.

We’ve seen this before; when feral cats were eradicated from Macquarie Island, the rabbit population exploded. Rabbits then destroyed vegetation, which led to erosion and damage to seabird breeding sites. The cat problem thus became the rabbit problem. When poison was used to kill the rabbits, seabirds ate their carcasses and died by the thousands. It was the seabirds who scientists were trying to protect in the first place.

These groups also say that once outdoor cats are gone, all remaining cats must be kept indoors at all times in homes, sanctuaries, or shelters. Of course, this ignores the true nature of feral colony cats, who do not thrive indoors among people and prefer to live outside.

Over the past three decades, we’ve seen the traditional catch-and-kill approach fail to make any impact overall on the outdoor cat population. Instead, humane methods that do not involve killing, like trap-neuter-return (TNR), are growing in popularity. As lethal methods have fallen out of favor and communities have taken up life-affirming alternatives, we’ve also seen the rate of intake and euthanasia of healthy cats at shelters fall significantly. Thankfully, more and more municipalities are making TNR the standard of care when it comes to community cats.

And yet, the ABC and others are still calling for the eradication of outdoor cats by lethal means. Here’s why their plans won’t work:

1. Government-run shelters don’t have the resources to trap millions of cats and citizens will not accept tax dollars being used for mass euthanasia.
2. Building “sanctuaries” for millions of feral cats is an enormous task, even if possible. Who would pay to build and maintain them?
3. Removing all outdoor cats—a mesopredator and highly specialized rodent hunter—would lead to an explosion of the rodent population. Rats and mice are typically poisoned; do we truly want more lethal chemicals in the environment?

The progress we’ve made in reducing shelter intake and euthanasia while also reducing the number of cats living outside is due to our hard work together promoting spay & neuter and trap-neuter-return for feral cats. We’ve come a long way, but know that we need to continue to grow our community in order to maintain the gains we’ve made for cats.

*Please join us in reaching out to the American Bird Conservancy and other environmental groups by signing and returning the petition on the last page of this report asking them to support humane, non-lethal management for feral cats. Cats, birds, and the environment as a whole benefit when we come together around effective TNR programs for cats.*



TNR ends the breeding cycle and brings outdoor cat populations under control. Returning feral cats to their colonies keeps other cats from migrating in while maintaining their preventive effect on rodents.



Louise Holton  
President and Founder

# Action for Cats!

This year you made it possible for ACR to help so many cats in need. Hardy and Olive were both abuse victims, and kitten Lucha had terrible, life-threatening injuries. Beyond major medical treatment, we brought kittens and former strays back to full health and found them homes. We sponsored spay/neuter clinics to serve cats on a budget, and we grew the community of people working for cats by promoting TNR, holding local workshops, and providing information and education to empower colony caregivers and cat owners alike.



Hardy was abused and needed weeks of treatment. He recovered and was adopted into a loving, forever home!



Olive was found by our Los Angeles team with cropped ears and a severely broken leg. Her leg was amputated and after a brief recovery period, she was adopted.



Cats awaiting sterilization at Angels of Assissi in Roanoke, VA. ACR sponsored two free spay/neuter and rabies vaccination clinics there that served 200 cats over two days.



When Lucha arrived, his tail was mostly gone and his rear was being destroyed by parasites. After tail amputation and weeks in a "diaper" bandage, Lucha found a loving home!



ACR's low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Maryland serves feral & pet cats. Thousands of cats are sterilized each year through ACR's programs in Maryland, Virginia, and Los Angeles.

# Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2018

## SUPPORT & REVENUE

### *Public Support:*

Contributions and Donations.....	\$1,326,060
Legacies and Bequests.....	\$1,050,802
Grants.....	\$40,539
<b>Total Public Support.....</b>	<b>\$2,417,401</b>
<b>Other Revenue.....</b>	<b>\$182,622</b>
<b>Total Support and Revenue.....</b>	<b>\$2,600,023</b>

## EXPENSES

### *Programs:*

Newsletters and Publications.....	\$188,822
Promoting Spay/Neuter.....	\$487,101
Education and Public Relations..	\$269,231
Adoption and TNR.....	\$319,816
National Cat Action Teams.....	\$137,215
Prevention.....	\$281,096
<b>Total Program Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$1,683,281</b>

### *Supporting Services:*

Management and General.....	\$135,713
Development.....	\$251,355
<b>Total Supporting Services.....</b>	<b>\$387,068</b>
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$2,070,349</b>

\*Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Tax ID # 52-227-9100.

## The ACR Team

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Louise Holton, *President*  
Marsha Dabolt, *Outlaw Kitties*  
Peggy Hilden, *Treasurer*  
Virginia Messina, MPH, RD  
Susanna Delman, MPH

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Elizabeth Marshall Thomas  
Verne Smith, Esq.  
Roger Tabor, CBiol, FSB, MPhil,  
FCFBA, FBNAhc

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Louise Holton, *President & Founder*  
Desirée Stapley, *Director of Planning & Administration*  
Denise Hilton, *Director of Operations*  
Nikolette Cochran, *Program Manager*  
Cheryl Noll, *Volunteer Colony Caretaker*  
Tom Ragusa, *Finance Associate*  
Adam Jablonski, *Communications Associate*

## Help Support Our Work!



TNR workshops empower citizens to save and help cats.

### **Wills and Bequests:**

Ensure that your love and compassion for cats lives on by including Alley Cat Rescue in your estate plans. Suggested bequest language: "I give (specific amount or property) to Alley Cat Rescue, Inc., having its principle office at 3906 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722 or PO Box 585, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712 for its general purpose to help stray, abandoned, and feral cats. Tax ID: 52-2279100."

**CFC:** Support ACR through the Combined Federal Campaign.  
**CFC #10472.**

### **Planned Giving - Charitable Gift Annuities:**

Annuities can help you achieve your personal financial goals while providing a foundation for our work helping cats. Enjoy tax savings and turn appreciated assets into income for yourself. Charitable gift annuities allow you to make a gift of \$5,000 or more and receive fixed interest payments for life, as well as tax deductions. For more information call 301-277-5595, email [acr@saveacat.org](mailto:acr@saveacat.org), or write P.O. Box 585, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712.

# L.A. Cat-fidential

For the past six years, Alley Cat Rescue has been on the ground working to combat the cat overpopulation issue in Los Angeles, California. There are an estimated 2 to 3 million feral cats in L.A. alone. Unfortunately, the city of Los Angeles is stuck in a long legal battle that completely bars it from being involved in trap-neuter-return, as it once was. Not only are officials blocked from implementing TNR programs themselves, they're not allowed to mention or suggest the process to residents, or even refer them to outside TNR groups. This current stalemate leaves the fate of these animals in the hands of groups like ACR.

ACR's West Coast team TNRs around 1,000 cats per year in L.A., and also saves feral cats from euthanasia at local shelters by relocating them to farms and barns in the area. These "working cats" then protect barns and homes from rodents. Our team fosters orphaned and injured kittens throughout the year, and last fall helped the community in Malibu search for, trap, and care for cats affected by the devastating Woolsey fire. We provided temporary foster care for lost cats and also made donations of food, litter, toys and supplies to local emergency evacuation shelters.

Earlier this year, our team found a colony of more than 200 cats at an L.A. shopping mall. ACR knew this was a colony that needed our help; none of the cats had an ear-tip indicating that they were TNR'd and their population numbers were likely growing exponentially. Our team is working methodically through this whole colony and has TNR'd more than half of the cats so far.

The situation in L.A. is deeply concerning and unlikely to improve without a TNR program supported by the city. Cats in need are everywhere; our staff even rescued two nursing mothers with kittens from a rooftop!

In April of 2017, city commissioners approved a framework proposal for implementing TNR in Los Angeles once again. Major project elements include funding for spay/neuter services for feral cats, education and training programs at city-run facilities, and municipal code changes to make the process more efficient. The household pet limit would also be raised from three to five. The city's Bureau of Engineering is now preparing an environmental impact report, which will be available for public comment this spring.

ACR has advocated for the feral cats of L.A since the first court injunction was handed down in 2008. Our members responded to our Action Alerts with public comments to city officials every step of the way. Unfortunately, countless kittens have been born on the streets since TNR was blocked by the 2010 lawsuit. **The environmental groups are so wrong on this issue.** Banning TNR, banning the feeding of feral cats, and trying to kill all cats in a city, let alone on an entire continent, will not work. The only solution is TNR.

If you're a Los Angeles resident, please take action for all the cats in need in your area by [contacting your local council member](#) and asking them to support a city-run trap-neuter-return (TNR) program.

Also, [sign our petition](#) to bird and conservation groups on the last page of this report. Their lawsuit is the reason that so many cats are suffering in L.A. right now. We must let them know that until they support TNR, we will NOT support them!



A trapped feral cat from among a colony of 200 at an L.A. mall.



Two feral mothers & their kittens who were rescued from a rooftop.

**TAKE  
ACTION!**

# Protecting the African Wildcat

Much Progress has been made on our African Wildcat program in South Africa. Through donations sent to us by kind ACR members, we were able to send our Program Director in South Africa, Rita Brock, to the area surrounding the Kruger National Park to conduct a feasibility study. We want to report on the work Rita did for us, and tell you of our future plans.

Rita met with lodge owners, SPCA's, veterinarians, feral cat caretakers and groups implementing TNR in the area. We are pleased to report that not only are all the groups up that way supportive of our AWC project, some are already working on sterilizing the outdoor cats in the area, thereby making the work a lot less difficult for us.

The help they need from Alley Cat Rescue is:

- Funding (many of the areas are economically depressed)
- Traps and equipment
- Training for staff and volunteers

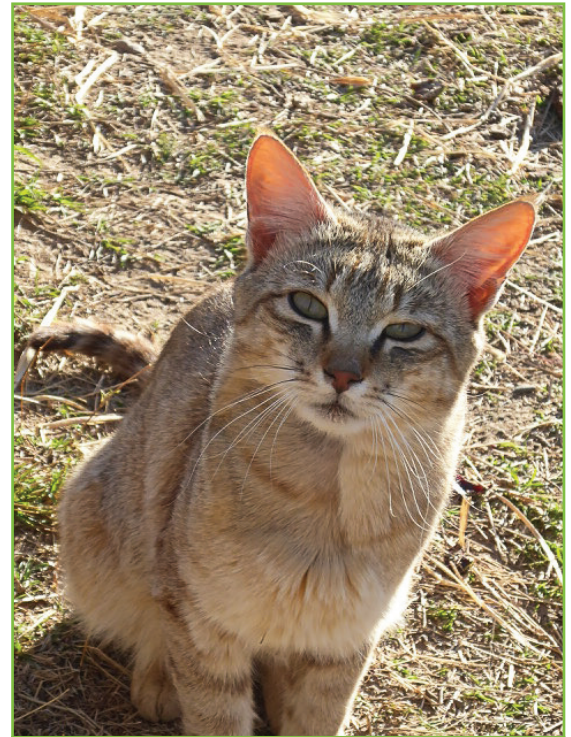
Our plan for 2019 through 2020 is:

- Organize a workshop and training conference near Kruger National Park in the fall of 2019
- Train volunteers and SPCA's
- Train veterinarians in the area
- Purchase trapping equipment
- Work with medical companies to identify cost-effective spay/neuter supplies

With your support, we will continue this vital and important program to protect the ancestor of our domestic cats. Sadly, recent news reports have revealed that another wildcat, the Scottish Wildcat, may already have "disappeared" from its habitat for good due to hybridization from mating with domestic feral cats. There may only be about 35 true Scottish Wildcats left.

We are determined to protect the African Wildcat from experiencing the same fate. Fortunately, the African Wildcat can still be protected and its heritage preserved. We can do it with trap-neuter-return and the many partners in the area willing to help.

We also want to invite you to attend our workshops in South Africa, and see the work and the cats for yourselves. There are some Wildcats in South Africa living in sanctuaries so you can meet the African Wildcat in person. A truly wonderful experience, we can assure you. And, if you visit Kruger National Park and go out late at night, you may see one living in the wild!



The backs of the African Wildcat's ears are always tinged a rusty red color, which helps determine whether they're a pure AWC or domestic cat hybrid.

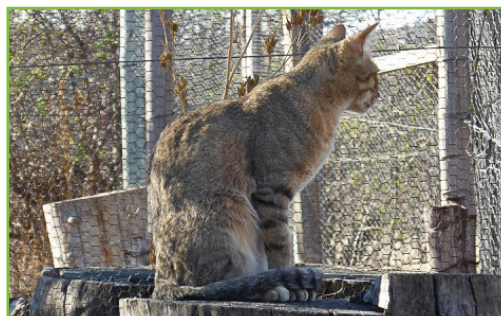


PHOTO: EMDONENI LODGE



**All Sales Help ACR Spay/Neuter Cats!**

**ORDER FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Order Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

#	ITEM	PRICE	SIZE (Please Circle)	QUANTITY	TOTAL
1	African Wildcat T-shirt	\$16	M, L, XL		\$
2	African Wildcat shoulder bag	\$10	N/A		\$
3	"Cat Face" T-shirt (white)	\$16	S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL		\$
4	"Cat Face" T-shirt (grey)	\$16	S, M, 3XL		\$
5	Alley Cat Rescue v-neck black T-shirt	\$14	S, M, L		\$
6	"TNR is the cat's meow" blue hooded sweatshirt	\$20	S, M		\$
7	ACR's Guide to Managing Community Cats handbook	\$10	N/A		\$
8	Tote Bag (grey, black, and hunter green)	\$12	(Please circle color!)		\$
9	Grocery Tote (white, green handles)	\$5	N/A		\$
<b>Sub Total</b>					\$
Sales Tax (6%)*					+\$
Shipping**					+\$7.00
Donation					+\$
<b>TOTAL</b>					\$

Make checks payable to:  
Alley Cat Rescue, Inc.

Maryland residents, please add 6% sales tax.

\*\*There is a flat shipping rate of \$7.00 for ALL purchases.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Visa    MasterCard    Discover    American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ CCV# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN COMPLETED ORDER FORM TO ALLEY CAT RESCUE, PO BOX 585, MT RAINIER, MD 20712.**

# *It's almost here, time to get involved!*

The **Spring Spay Challenge** is a season-long initiative to save lives and promote the spaying and neutering of community cats. Alley Cat Rescue is calling on the veterinary community to provide two or more free or low-cost sterilizations per week for community cats during March, April, and May.

**March into Spring Kitten Free!** Complete and return the form below and we'll invite your vet to participate.

\*Please invite my local veterinary clinic/veterinarian to participate in the Spring Spay Challenge.

**CLINIC NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Does this clinic already provide services for community cats?  Yes  No



## *Speak out for Cats*

**SIGN AND RETURN  
THIS PETITION!**

Wild bird and conservation groups are standing in the way of implementing the one humane and effective solution we have for managing community cats; trap-neuter-return (TNR). Please sign this petition to tell the American Bird Conservancy, Wildlife Society, National Audubon Society and Cornell Ornithology Lab, to change course and publicly support TNR programs.

The gains we've made for cats also help birds, but for these four groups, it's not enough. They wish to see every cat removed from our landscape and say that each and every cat must be kept indoors or confined. They suggest gathering up all free-roaming cats and placing them into adoption programs or sanctuaries and when those options aren't available, euthanasia becomes the answer.

The policies put forth by the ABC, Wildlife Society, National Audubon Society and Cornell Ornithology Lab are cruel and outdated. There are no "sanctuaries" where millions of free-roaming cats could be relocated to and adoption and foster programs are generally at capacity; we wouldn't still be killing 2500 cats each day in U.S. shelters if they weren't. Their ideas are also woefully behind public opinion; more than 80% of Americans say they prefer returning free-roaming cats to their outdoor homes rather than euthanizing them.

Wild bird and conservation groups harm both birds and cats by attacking TNR and blocking its implementation. Please sign this petition and tell the ABC, Wildlife Society, National Audubon Society, and Cornell Ornithology Lab that you will not support them in any way until they embrace trap-neuter-return and pledge to work in cooperation with groups like Alley Cat Rescue.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

***Tell Wild Bird  
and Conservation Groups  
to Support Trap-Neuter-Return!***