

ALLEY CAT RESCUE

AN ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION 301-277-5595

www.SaveACat.org



FISCAL YEAR 2021





ANNUAL REPORT











Mission Statement

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

Our Work

- Promote compassionate 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
- Connect individuals with TNR groups through our national Cat Action Teams
- Protect the genetic integrity of the African Wildcat through TNR of feral cats

Our Impact

- TNR thousands of feral cats plus promotes TNR globally
- Early age spay/neuter
- Vet Challenge has sterilized 130,000 cats
- Neuter before adoption
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Lowering cat intake at shelters



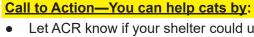
From the Desk of Louise Holton

Alley Cat Rescue was founded in 1997 with the goal of reducing cat overpopulation. We immediately set out to help community cats in the U.S. and around the world. There are an estimated 600 million domestic cats in the world. They are one of the most successful mammals on earth, and since the first cat domesticated herself around 12,000 years ago, they have been taken to every corner of the globe, except for Antarctica.

ACR concentrates on programs to help as many cats as possible with scarce resources. While rescuing cats and kittens is a noble goal and we have rescued thousands of cats over the years, we also concentrate on the bigger picture through advocacy, education, and working with coalitions, which helps save more cats in the long run. The best way to help cats is by getting them all spayed and neutered. And that has always been ACR's goal.

Ways we are achieving this:

- 1. **The Global Feral Fix Challenge** This annual campaign encourages veterinarians from around the world to help spay and neuter community cats---there are millions of stray cats in every country, and we need veterinarians' help to get them under control.
- 2. **Shelter Survey** ACR is helping U.S. shelters to reduce cat numbers and euthanasia rates. In order to do this, we ask for their current policies toward community cats and offer assistance where needed.
- 3. **CATs (Cat Action Teams)** ACR has developed a list of CATs (organizations that practice no-kill and TNR) in every state as a resource for those who want to help cats.
- 4. **Low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinics** ACR has developed website resources listing low-cost spay/neuter clinics in every state, as well as financial assistance for veterinary costs.
- 5. **Petitions and letters** to local and federal government agencies to protect cats.
- 6. **Counteracting Misleading Information on Cat Predation -** While cats are predators, humans do far more damage to the planet. ACR's website provides facts and studies that debunk the myths surrounding cat predation. At the same time, our website also gives tips on how individuals can reduce our environmental impact, as well as work on reducing the number of outdoor cats using humane, nonlethal methods.
- 7. Our **Pet Trust Brochures** have been sent to thousands of people to help provide for your cats after you are gone.
- 8. **Saving the African Wildcat** An iconic species, the African wildcat is the ancestor of our domestic Moggies. ACR is helping this wildcat survive.
- ACR's Guide to Managing Community Cats ACR is one of the world's leading authorities on TNR and taking care of outdoor community cats. In 2015 we wrote and published this handbook to share our knowledge of best practices.
- 10. **Managing Colonies of Community cats** ACR cares for 18 colonies of cats through TNR, daily feeding, and providing shelter.
- 11. **TNR Clinics** ACR helps with weekly and monthly spay/neuter clinics in several states.
- 12. **National Community Cat Surveys** ACR has administered two surveys (in 2016 and 2019) to rescues and caretakers throughout the U.S. to establish percentages of outdoor cats that have been sterilized, along with other information pertinent to community cat wellbeing.
- 13. **Cat Reports** We have written two reports, available on our website, about the status of cats in the United States in households, shelters, and outdoors.
- 14. **TNR Around the World** In addition to USA, ACR has helped TNR cats in Greece, Egypt, the Caymans, the Galapagos, Puerto Rico, Mexico, India, and South Africa, United Kingdom, Namibia, and UAE.



- Let ACR know if your shelter could use information on TNR. Email debbie@ saveacat.org with the name of their manager/CEO and mailing address.
- Ask your veterinary clinic to join our 2022 Global Feral Fix project! They can sign up at http://www.saveacat.org/the-feral-fix.html.
- Add a TNR group to our website's list of CATs. Send their name and website address to debbie@saveacat.org.



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Louise Holton
President/Founder

Rescue Stories

FIP Cases - ACR has been able to save the lives of six cats and kittens from Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), including Pinto Bean and Jessie. While FIP used to have a 100% fatality rate, a newly developed treatment is a game-changer. The treatment requires serious dedication as it is given by injection for 84 days, followed by another 84 days of observation. However, the success we have seen with these cats proves all that effort is worth it. All six former patients are now fully recovered.



Willow & Jazmine

Willow & Jazmine - Late September, we found a couple of seven week-old kittens abandoned in a box outside our Maryland office. Our office is right next to a four-lane highway and the sides of the box were low enough that the kittens could have easily climbed out, so we are lucky they

stayed put long enough for us to stumble across them. The two little gray girls got a checkup at the veterinarian, vaccinations, deworming medication, and much-needed baths.



Spirit



Jewell & Kittens

Spirit was dumped outside our Maryland office over a year ago and has been in our foster program ever since. We have been treating her for arthritis and giving her love and attention while she waits for her forever home.

Jewell & Kittens - Mama cat, Jewell, was found napping with her three-week-old kittens under a parked car in the hot summer weather. When we first caught her, Jewell was underweight and after a short time with ACR, she began showing symptoms of severe infection. She

was hospitalized for almost a week and, with intensive care, she pulled through. The kittens, Diamond and Ruby, were adopted out together once they were old enough.



Panda - ACR rescued Panda as a newborn kitten from a California shelter. He had a twisted leg, but we were able to correct it with our vets assistance, with splinting and daily physical therapy.



James



Sprout



BubbleGum

James was picked up off the side of the road in awful condition, and we were not sure he was going to make it. Fortunately, he made a great recovery after weeks of medication and a lot of TLC.

Sprout had an awful virus at just six weeks old and required daily fluids and force feeding. He made a full recovery, and blossomed into an affectionate, cuddly boy.

BubbleGum - In early December of 2020, we rescued a mama cat and her litter of seven newborn kittens. Mom and all of the kittens have been adopted into forever homes except BubbleGum, who was born half the size of his littermates and has exhibited numerous health problems throughout his young life. As a young cat, BubbleGum has large lymph nodes and an enlarged spleen. ACR has taken him to many veterinarian and specialist appointments, but they have been unable to come up with a diagnosis. Last year, he was treated for juvenile periodontal disease and had to have all his teeth removed. He has another

appointment with an internal specialist to check on his enlarged lymph nodes and spleen.

Despite his medical set-backs, BubbleGum is as happy as any other kitty. He is blissfully unaware that there is anything different about him and spends his days in his foster home playing with other cats, exploring cardboard boxes (his favorite toys), and eating lots of soft food. BubbleGum will stay in ACR's care for as long as it takes for his health to stabilize. We love this special boy!

Litter of Seven - ACR rescued these newborn kittens from a shelter in September of 2020. Neonates are some of the most critical and are often euthanized at shelters. With our foster program ACR is able to offer assistance to bottle babies and provide them with care 24/7.







Cats vs. Birds?

Bird and environmental groups often claim that community cats are an extreme threat to native bird populations. However, the data upon which they base their fears doesn't hold up under scrutiny. There simply is not sufficient information available to determine if cat predation has any detrimental effects on the overall populations of prey animals, including birds. The few studies that have been conducted on cat predation are from islands with closed ecosystems, where native bird populations have lived without becoming used to living with predators. Because cat predation on continents is very different from isolated island environments, it is inaccurate and inappropriate to extrapolate data from these particular studies to predict predation on continents.

Additionally, the way in which cats hunt is much more effective for catching rodents than birds, and many feral cats actually live almost entirely on scavenged leftovers from dumpsters. Plus a National Pet Owners study in 2019/2020 found that 14% of U.S. households feed feral cats (26% of cat owners).

Another fact that further dispels the rumor that cat predation is responsible for large-scale species depletion is that cats, like many predators, usually prey on young, old, and unhealthy animals. Two studies have investigated this^{1, 2}, revealing that birds killed by cats are weaker than birds killed through non-predatory events (e.g., collisions with windows or cars). The U.K.'s Royal Society for the Protection of Birds notes: "It is likely that most of the birds killed by cats would have died anyway from other causes before the next breeding season, so cats are unlikely to have a major impact on populations."

Nevertheless, cats can and do prey on birds, though to a lesser degree than bird societies imagine. Alley Cat Rescue believes in compassionate treatment of all animals. There are ways we can protect both birds and cats.

- ¹ Møller, A. P.; Erritzøe, J. Predation against Birds with Low Immunocompetence. Oecologia 2000, 122 (4), 500–504.
- ² Baker, P. J.; Molony, S. E.; Stone, E.; Cuthill, I. C.; Harris, S. Cats about Town: Is Predation by Free-Ranging Pet Cats Felis Catus Likely to Affect Urban Bird Populations? Ibis 2008, 150, 86–99.
- ³ RSPB. Are Cats Causing Bird Declines? 2016.

TNR Sponsorships

In 2021, we continued to expand our TNR program on both micro and macro levels, despite the complications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We share our expertise and other resources to support the TNR efforts of groups in underserved areas of the U.S. and abroad. In 2021 alone, we were able to support TNR in many states across the USA. These included conducting large clinics for community cats in California, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Arizona, New Mexico and Florida.

We were also proud to sponsor programs in Greece, India, the Cayman Islands, and San Cristobal Island (in the Galapagos archipelago). In previous years, we have also supported organizations in Egypt, Iraq, and Sudan.

Calls to Action

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is a region of Australia that contains the country's capital, Canberra, and some surrounding townships. The ACT government has created a detailed action plan to "guide the management of cats—domestic and feral—in the ACT over the next decade" (ACT Cat Plan, pg. 7).

The ACT Cat Plan took effect in July 2022. This bill makes TNR illegal and unsocialized cats that cannot be taken into a home are to be hunted and killed, all in a misguided effort to protect ACT wildlife from cat predation. It is imperative that the government understand that well-managed colonies of sterilized cats are fed regularly and therefore, pose little threat to wildlife. These cats are also vaccinated, which ensures they will not spread zoonotic diseases. Managed colony cats should be considered owned by their caretakers and be exempt from the Cat Plan's indoor-only cats rule.

Please read our February 3rd blog post at www.saveacat.org/blog.html to learn more, read the full Plan. Then go to www. saveacat.org/action-alerts.html to sign our petition for ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr, signifying your support of these exemptions.

Updates on ACR's African Wildcat Conservation Work

Alley Cat Rescue is concerned for the welfare of all cats, everywhere, and we have just wound up a third, very successful year of our **African Wildcat Conservation Action Plan**. Thanks to generous grants from the Ayers Wild Cat Conservation trust, and Bosack & Kruger Foundation, we have been able to TNR about 3,000 domestic cats around the Kruger Park area. The goal of this work is to protect and preserve the wildcat species (*Felis lybica cafra*), which is threatened by habitat loss due to human expansion. Human expansion into their territories also causes wildcats to come into contact with stray and feral domestic cats, which is a recipe for hybridization. The AWC is the ancestor of the domestic cat and the two cats readily interbreed.

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 left unchecked, thereby causing other animals to have less vegetation and destroying the ecosystem. Yet, despite the grave consequences, AWCs and the other small wild cats of the world receive less than one percent of wild cat conservation funding.

For the past several years, ACR has been involved with establishing a network in South Africa of all those in the country participating in sterilizing outdoor community cats. This has put us in a good position to expand our AWC Conservation Action Plan beyond the Kruger Park area. We have already been working with two TNR groups in the Cape area throughout this time. They have been sterilizing cats in the George area (Western Cape) and Port Alfred/Kenton-on-Sea (Eastern

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Cape). Therefore, ACR chose to begin our Action Plan expansion by branching out through the Eastern and Western Capes, where we can build upon an existing foundation.

Both Cape area TNR groups have reported to ACR that they have sterilized many cats on farms. Another African wildcat expert who lives in the Cradock area reported that one of the biggest problems facing African wildcats there are farm cats, who generally are not sterilized. In response, we have focused efforts on reaching out to Farm Bureaus, requesting their help to explain the need to farmers that they get their cats sterilized. We have targeted Organic Farming organizations in particular, as our contact in Cape Town reported that many of them use cats for rodent control in place of pesticides.

In the near future, ACR will reach out to the Cape's SPCAs (they are the local animal control agencies similar to the U.S. animal shelter community) to encourage their involvement in TNR. A general agreement



Dumpy, an AWC kitten rescued by Moholoholo Rehab Center

with both farming groups and SPCAs of the importance of TNR for the preservation of the African wildcat will pave the way for great progress in conservation.

Within the scope of AWC conservation, we have also just begun a separate project to map African wildcat (Felis lybica) sightings throughout Africa and surrounding countries. The AWC Mapping Project, or simply AWC Project for short, will collect data from individuals visiting and living in these areas via ACR's Facebook group (facebook.com/ ACRAWCProject) and online report form. Our goal is to use the sightings to create a map of AWC distribution across Africa and surrounding regions that will aid ACR and other conservationist groups in monitoring the health or decline of the species' population. The foundation for the project is complete and we are working to get our request for data in front of the right pairs of eyes.

Alley Cat Rescue Partnered with Prince George's Animal Shelter to Help Save More Lives

ACR partnered with PG animal shelter in Maryland to open a trap bank, for which we also donated some traps. ACR was represented at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 3, 2021.

Last year we continued to promote trap-neuterreturn programs to shelters across the USA. We have been sending out surveys to all shelters and then provided Alley Cat Rescue's Guide to Managing Community Cats. This will help change the lives of so many community cats and prevent kittens from being born on the streets.



TNR Program & Advocacy Updates

Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR, is the process of trapping unowned outdoor cats (also known as community cats), spaying/neutering and vaccinating them against the most prevalent feline and zoonotic diseases, and then returning the cats to where they were found. This is done as a humane and uniquely effective form of outdoor cat population control and management, as it keeps kittens from being born in the streets and keeps existing cats out of shelters, where they are almost always euthanized because they are not socialized and, therefore, unadoptable. TNR is the main pillar of Alley Cat Rescue's philosophy and mission. Since our founding in 1997, we have TNR'd tens of thousands of community cats.

Our website is a community cat management resource for Individuals and organizations from every part of the world with educational material and step-by-step guides for TNR. The site is continuously updated by staff members and interns to ensure we are giving high-quality, comprehensive information.

Beyond practicing TNR ourselves and supporting other nonprofit groups that do TNR, we actively promote it year-round in a variety of ways. In early October, we mailed out a TNR survey to the heads of over 2,500 shelters across the country in order to gauge what percentage already practice TNR, as well as find those that would be open to a TNR program so that we may offer our help. We are keenly focused on convincing shelters that do not practice TNR to change their system as that would save the lives of many, many unsocialized cats. We were able to influence the Prince George's County Maryland authorities to embrace TNR after

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The ACR Community Makes A Difference

ACR monitors cat-related news from throughout the U.S. and around the world, looking for situations where our voice may steer policy-makers to make compassionate decisions regarding cats. We often ask our members to strengthen our position by signing petitions. Our petitions and calls to action can be found on our website at http://www.saveacat.org/action-alerts.html.

Below are only a couple examples of recent campaigns:

Petition to Stop Government-approved Cat Killing in Australia

A program to destroy two million cats by 2020 was announced by the Australian government in 2015 as part of the country's Threatened Species Strategy. The program continues to this day despite 2020 having come and gone. It was enacted due to the concern that the feral cat population is out of control and that cat predation is resulting in the loss of millions of native animals.

ACR would protest large-scale killing of cats in any situation as it is inhumane, but we found in researching the situation in Australia that the 20 million feral cats purported to be on the continent is nowhere near the actual scientifically estimated amount of 2.1 to 6.3 million. In 2020, we began notifying our members of the culling through Emails, mailings, and social media, asking them to sign a petition condemning it. By August of 2021, we had gathered almost 95,000 signatures. We mailed a letter citing the number of signatures and incorrect figures to the AU Minister for the Environment, Threatened Species Commissioner, and Ambassador to the U.S.

Petition to Protect NSW Cats & Wildlife from Being Poisoned

Also in Australia, specifically New South Wales, the Agriculture Minister, Adam Marshall applied for an emergency permit to use the powerful poison, bromadiolone as a pesticide to solve the state's mouse overpopulation crisis. When ACR learned of this, we were concerned because bromadiolone is so potent and reacts with the mice's bodies once ingested in such a way that it will definitely kill any animals that eat those mice; this includes cats, even pet cats.

After alerting our membership and collecting over 70,000 petition signatures, we mailed a letter of protest to the CEO of the APVMA, Lisa Croft. Croft's office recently sent us a letter in reply, stating that they intend to refuse the emergency permit application.

National causes about which ACR has encouraged our members to contact their representatives in 2021 are the Big Cat Public Safety Act, which would protect big cats from exploitation and improper care by prohibiting private individuals from owning them as pets; the outlawing of gas chamber euthanasia throughout the country; and the re-introduction of Virginia Bill SB-1390, which would prevent TNR volunteers from paying penalties for laws relating to "abandonment of animals," holding animals without licenses, "general requirements of shelters related to holding periods, release of animals, and recordkeeping." These issues have not been resolved, and you can still find information to contact your representative about them on our Action Alerts page. ACR will post any updates on the same page, as they arise.

2021 Financial Report

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Public Support:

Contributions and Donations	.\$2,135,691
Legacies and Bequests	.\$267,834
Grants	.\$284,118
Total Public Support	.\$2,687,643
Other Revenue	.\$321,512
Merchandise	.\$47,471
Total Support and Revenue	







EXPENSES

Programs:

Newsletters and Publications	\$257,189
Advocacy & Promoting Spay/Neuter.	\$338,350
Education and Public Relations	\$254,685
Direct Care & Services	\$782,904
National & Global Programs	\$243,949
Campaigns & Outreach	\$276,321
Total Program Expenses	\$2,153,398
Supporting Services:	
Management and General	\$185,938
Development	\$182,470
Total Supporting Services	\$368,408
Total Expenses	\$2,521,806

























These items and MORE can also be purchased through our online store: http://www.saveacat.org/store.html

ORDER FORM

Name		Order Total \$
Address		
Phone	Email	

#	ITEM	PRICE	SIZE (Please Circle)	COLOR (Please Circle)	# OF ITEMS	\$ TOTAL
1	Black V-neck T-shirt	\$20	S M L			
2	Black Long Sleeve Shirt	\$25	S M L XL 2XL			
3	Charcoal Zip-up Hoodie	\$35	S M L XL 2XL			
4	Smoke Gray ACR Cat Silhouette Long Sleeved Shirt	\$30	S M L XL 2XL			
5	ACR Cat Silhouette T-Shirt	\$25	S M L XL 2XL	lilac, teal, white, storm		
6	African Wildcat T-shirt	\$16	M L XL			
7	ACR Mask	\$8.50		Blue		
8	African Wildcat Shoulder Tote Bag	\$10				
9	Canvas Tote	\$12		Blue, Gray		
10	Grocery Tote	\$7				
11	Cat Rescue's Guide to Managing Community Cats Paperback	\$6				
12	Blue ACR Bracelet	\$10	S M L			

Please send checks made out to Alley Cat Rescu	9
or provide your credit card information below.	

⊒ Visa	■ MasterCard	□ Discover	☐ American Express

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

All donations are tax-deductible.

Sales Tax: 6% for Maryland residents. 7.25% for California residents.

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

Card Number	CCV#
Expiration Date	Signature

Meet Our Team

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Rose Dixon, Administrative Assistant

Tom Ragusa, Finance Associate

Elsa Sintigo, Program Assistant

Cheryl Noll, Volunteer Colony Caretaker

Jennifer Martinez, Research & Communications Intern

Grace Heifetz, Research & Social Media Intern

Support Our Work Saving Lives

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."

In Memory: Muriel "Miki" Jo White (1945 – March 22, 2020)

ACR is honored to be the recipient of a 2021 generous donation from the Muriel Jo White Trust. Miki loved all animals, but had a special place in her heart for cats. She particularly adored Persian cats and gave a loving home to many rescued Persians during her lifetime.

TNR Program & Advocacy Updates

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several years of meetings, and we hope to do the same for other municipal shelters. Survey responses are still coming in and we will share our key findings in future publications.

December 31st, we officially wrapped up the 2021 cycle of our Feral Fix Challenge, an annual global campaign that brings veterinarians and communities together to save cats' lives. Each year, for over a decade, we send Emails and letters to veterinary clinics around the world, inviting them to get involved with trap-neuter-return by providing low-cost or free spay/neuter surgeries and rabies vaccination for free-roaming cats. Community cat spay/ neuter totals reported by the 2021 challenge participants reached 50,000!

Veterinary participants have been from the USA, Canada, South Africa, Greece, Israel, Japan, Croatia, Antigua, Nicaragua, India and this year, we were happy to add England and the UAE to this list.



Jessie and Pinto Bean – two of the FIP kittens that ACR has helped save. See page 3 for details.

For the latest information on FIP treatment options, visit fipwarriors.com and sockfip.org/about-fip











