



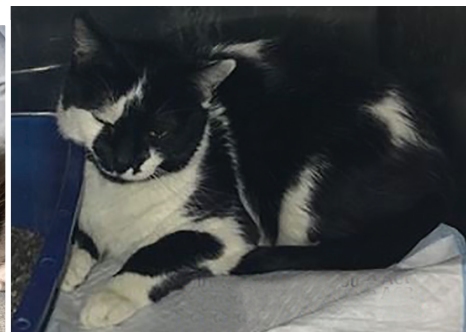
ALLEY CAT RESCUE

AN ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION www.SaveACat.org
301-277-5595



FISCAL YEAR 2019

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 cats plus promote TNR
- ACR's Vet Challenge
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Early age spay/neuter
- Neuter before adoption
- Lowering cat intake at shelters



The War on Cats

Cats have been scapegoated for centuries. During Medieval times cats were associated with witches and slaughtered during the terrible witch hunts. As the plague started ravishing the human population many today believe that it did not help that cats were almost eradicated allowing rat populations to grow out of control. It does seem that much of this latest modern war on cats is once again related to the old "scapegoat" frenzy upon the cat. This time around though, it is often otherwise-intelligent scientists and biologists doing the scapegoating. They call cats "non-native exotics" – all translating into "eradicate." In the book *Rat Island*, William Stolzenburg writes the tags that conservationists use are emotional and of their own choosing: Alien, Plague, Invader.

Dr. Marc Bekoff made us all aware of the opposition's call for an all-out assault on the lives of free-ranging cats when he read the book *Cat Wars*. Dr Bekoff refers specifically to pages 151-153 where the author of *Cat Wars* wrote: "remove all free-ranging cats from the landscape by any means necessary."

For an insightful look at the war on cats, wolves and other animals, read Dr Bekoff's essay in *Psychology Today* published in September 2016.

We all know our planet is in dire straits. World Wildlife Fund reports that 60% of the world's animals and birds have been wiped out. They state that in the Neotropical realm, Central and South America, wildlife has declined by 89%.

Our wildlife groups and our governments should be spending all their energies on solving the enormous problems causing this. Cat groups and individual citizens have taken over the task of keeping cat numbers down and in check.

So-called invasive species may contribute but certainly not to the same extent that other problems are causing for the world like turning rainforests into pastures for cows. A new study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* highlights the impact humanity has upon biodiversity and wildlife on Earth, although humans make up only a minute portion of all life on the planet.

Since civilization was established, the human race has caused the loss of 83 percent of all wild animals and 50 percent of all plants.

The study also revealed that 70 percent of all birds on Earth are farmed poultry, leaving a mere 30 percent to be wild. However, the percentage of wild mammals was far and few between; 60 percent of the mammals on Earth are livestock (predominantly cattle and pigs), 36 percent are humans, and just four percent of the living mammals on the planet are wild animals.

Let me say very clearly that we all want fewer cats to roam our streets. That is why we, the feral caretakers, have sterilized more than one million cats in the United States alone and in almost every country except for Australia, where ordinary citizens are sterilizing feral cats.



"Culling perpetuates the problem. Current methods of competitor control do not aim at eradication...they aim at "sustained control." They are, therefore, not only cruel—they actually guarantee the continuation of the problem, if indeed, there is a problem. Lethal competitor animal control methods are about the temporary concealment of problems...instead of addressing the real causes of environmental and ecological degradation."

- Australian ecologist Frankie Seymour

Louise Holton
President/Founder

Our Top Victories for Cats

Launch of Sterilization Project in SA

In 2018, ACR launched our new African wildcat program in South Africa, aimed at protecting the genetic integrity of the African wildcat through sterilization of feral and free-roaming cats. Since its inception, 1,500 feral cats have been sterilized as a result of the project. Additionally, ACR hosted a workshop for local rescue organizations in October 2019. With continued funding and support, ACR aims to expand the project outside of Kruger National Park and sterilize domestic cats across the country.

Sun City Project

Prior to the launch of the Kruger National Park sterilization project, ACR worked with a group in Sun City, to provide TNR to feral cats living at the resort, as well as cats living on the perimeter of Pilanesberg Game Reserve. Since the inception of the project, roughly 500 cats have been spayed or neutered. Again, ACR's efforts were to prevent the interbreeding of feral cats and African wildcats.

Declawing Banned in the State of NY

In 2019, New York became the first state to ban the declawing of cats. The procedure can lead to lifelong pain, discomfort, and behavioral issues in cats. It involves removing the first joint of the cat's toe, equivalent to amputating the tip of a person's finger. Cats can suffer from symptoms such as chronic foot pain, infection, arthritis and difficulty walking. With this ban, New York State joined numerous cities throughout the country, such as Los Angeles and Denver, in promoting the humane treatment of cats nationwide.

PACT Act Becomes Law

In 2019, the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act builds upon 2010 legislation and make acts of cruelty and abuse toward animals a federal offense. Violators could face felony charges, fines and up to seven years in prison. The PACT Act gives authorities additional powers to pursue abusers. The PACT Act is a tremendous victory in preventing and prosecuting animal cruelty in the United States.

ACR's Impact on the Cat Community

ACR promotes caring for cats through effective proven programs such as Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). These programs keep cats out of shelters, and provide cats living in our alleyways a better, healthier life

- Provides national resources to assist individuals to help cats.
- Helps individuals locate free and low cost spay/neuter services.
- ACR found homes for over 25,000 cats.
- Over 200,000 cats sterilized through our spay/neuter programs.
- 91,250 meals provided for cats in 2019 alone.

- ACR's Community Cat Outreach Program provides free training to citizens, municipalities, and animal control on TNR procedures. Trainings have been conducted in Europe, Africa, Central America, West Virginia, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, California, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Florida, and Nevada.
- More than 1,400 veterinarians in 45 U.S. states have participated in our Spring Spay Challenge campaign, along with veterinarians in Canada, Croatia, Greece, Japan, Israel, India, and South Africa. 80,000 community cats have been sterilized through our Spring Spay Challenge.
- Over 300,000 Pet Trust brochures have been distributed to assist individuals plan the long-term care of their pets.
- ACR has conducted several feral cat surveys. Groups reported that there are now smaller colony sizes bolstering the fact that TNR is effective in reducing outdoor cat populations and the results showed that feral cats in managed colonies live good, long lives.
- ACR runs a weekly spay/neuter clinic in Maryland and California where we have spayed and neutered thousands of cats per year for over 20 years. This has resulted in a 22% drop in our part of Maryland shelter intake numbers.

ACR Spay/Neuter Programs Across the Country

In areas of southern Virginia, ACR has been running TNR projects that have helped thousands of residents to free veterinary services. ACR traveled to West Virginia and North Carolina to train the public and animal control officers how to practice TNR.

Every week in Maryland, Alley Cat Rescue takes the issue of pet overpopulation head-on by holding our Cheap Fix Cat Clinic. By offering free spay and neuter for community and pet cats, we reduce the number of kittens born outdoors. To date, ACR has sterilized nearly 200,000 cats across the United States, and even more worldwide. **These programs would not be possible without the generous support of our donors and various state and private grants.**



ACR in the News

Over the past few years, Alley Cat Rescue has featured prominently in numerous articles online and in print both nationally and locally. Patch.com, WFXR, ABC 13 News Roanoke, the Dodo, and Lovemeow all covered projects as well as individual rescue efforts by ACR. Below are some of the highlights from the past few years.

Spring Spay Challenge

The Spring Spay Challenge is a three month initiative to save lives and promote the sterilization of feral cats across the globe.

Alley Cat Rescue asks veterinarians to help solve the kitten invasion by pledging to spay or neuter at least one feral cat each week for the month of March, April and May. Veterinarians are encouraged to work in collaboration with local animal rescuers to identify and assist cats in need of sterilization. TNR helps veterinarians proactively address the issue of cat overpopulation before kittens are even born.

Spring is referred to as “kitten season” because spring marks an uptick of kittens being taken to shelters. Kittens are one of the most vulnerable groups of cats for euthanasia, and the high intake of kittens can decrease their chances of survival due to overcrowding. Over 3.2 million cats enter shelters in the US each year, and sadly 3 in 10 of these animals will be euthanized.

Alley Cat Rescue first launched this initiative in May 2010 and in just eight years, over 1,400 veterinary hospitals from 45 U.S. states, Canada, Israel, Croatia, and South Africa have spayed and neutered over 80,000 feral cats.

“Spay/neuter is the most effective tool we have to help control the pet population. When people sterilize their cats, they help reduce the number of cats and kittens entering crowded shelters to an uncertain fate, and their cats receive health benefits too, such as protection from cancers of the reproductive organs,” said Louise Holton, President/Founder of Alley Cat Rescue.

This continuing partnership has made it possible for several thousand cats and kittens to receive these free services.

Binky

ACR saved an orphaned kitten in an abandoned building after hearing her cries.

ACR was moving cats to transport to a clinic when they heard a kitten’s cries. Much to their surprise, they found a tiny tuxedo kitten stuck between two walls. When the kitten saw them, she quickly wiggled out.

ACR immediately took her to an ER vet, where it was determined that she was suffering from a bad infection and it was unclear if she had sight in both eyes. She was given fluids and medication for her eyes and for her infection.

Thanks to the work of ACR, just hours after her rescue she was snug and warm in our care. Now known as Binky, the little tuxedo kitten grew healthy and strong, and is now living in her forever home with her best friend, Mochi.

Meeps

This past May, ACR rescuers were working on a TNR project in Los Angeles, and while they were there they discovered a tiny kitten with her head stuck in a hole in a wooden fence.

It turned out that the kitten was there with her siblings, and they all required medical attention. Thanks for the quick efforts of ACR rescuers, they were all taken to the vet ASAP.

Meeps, the weakest kitten, was fighting for her life. Her eyes were sealed shut due to infections and she was covered in fleas. All the kittens were very ill and required multiple rounds of antibiotics for upper respiratory infections, eye infections, GI issues, and treatment for parasites. No one was sure if Meeps would survive.

The kittens were placed in wonderful foster homes and received round-the-clock care to help them recover. With a safe place to stay and plenty of love and affection, the kittens began to improve and gain weight and strength.

Despite her condition, Meeps surprised everyone with her will to live. She endured so much, but developed a loving and playful personality, always wanting cuddles and snuggles. She finally got the all clear from the vet and her eyes were as good as new! She and her brothers and sisters are now happily living with their forever families.

This is just one of many examples of how ACR has stepped in and rescued a kitten that surely would’ve otherwise suffered a slow and painful death. But we can’t do it alone. Without the support of donors like you, none of this critical life-saving work can be done.



LA Cat-fidential

For the past 7 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 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 individuals and groups like ACR.

Despite the factual evidence, this court injunction was implemented and has ultimately resulted in a lot of suffering. Earlier this year during Kitten Season, we came upon many, many kittens with infections and parasites. Cats scrounge in trash for food and they still manage to have litter after litter of kittens. Additionally, due to lack of care, they often fall victim as a host to parasites and upper respiratory infections (URIs). URIs are highly contagious and spread quickly when the virus symptoms are present, therefore affecting large swaths of the cat population. Parasites also have a rapid spread rate, inflicting thousands of cats in short timeframes. When cats are afflicted with these diseases, they need fluids, antibiotics, and often need to be force fed. Many have high fevers and need to be taken to emergency clinics immediately or they will die from the high fevers. Ultimately, the cats need around-the-clock care which is difficult to achieve due to a lack of resources.

Siamese Kittens!

We came across a litter of the sweetest Siamese kittens! However, it was clear that trying to find Mom would be tricky. Day after day, our team would place traps in the same location we found the babies, but to no avail. Fortunately, thanks to persistence and dedication, we finally found Mom! She is a beautiful Siamese cat that we are quite sure is purebred. This goes to show that even purebred cats can be feral, which you can tell by looking at her ears (not to mention, the shocked look in her eyes probably from dealing with humans!). We went ahead and had her spayed so that she doesn't have to suffer all over again. Meanwhile, Mom has been relocated to a backyard with two other feral cats as she was too feral to be put in a home. We always try to find the best outcomes for our cats!

Sammie

While out on the street helping cats, we heard a young kitten's constant cries. With a little investigating, our team found a sweet, little, two-week-old tortie kitten on her own in an alleyway. We scheduled an appointment as her eyes were so infected we thought she was blind. We rushed her to an ER vet who started treating her infection with antibiotics and eye medications. She was covered in fleas and was anemic. She was also given an antibiotic shot and put on a high-calorie, nutrient-dense food.

Sock + Tape

This month, we want to highlight the story of kitties Sock and Tape, our resilient duo. We found these little guys in a colony in

Los Angeles. They had calicivirus, which is an upper respiratory infection in cats. The disease is preventable, but in this particular case it was passed down by an unvaccinated mama cat to her kittens. They were also horribly infested with fleas and parasites, as many kittens found on the streets are.

They were sick for quite some time, as well. After we at Alley Cat Rescue took them under our wing the infection persisted. At one point, Tape was sneezing so much that the poor kitten burst blood vessels in his nasal passages, thus essentially bleeding whenever he sneezed. Sock was very underweight, about half of Tape's weight. Despite their suffering, they got along wonderfully with the other fosters (remember Harrow?). Thanks to some really good antibiotics, a humidifier, and plenty of food and rest, they are fully recovered! We were then able to send them off to their "internship" at Cats Without Jobs, where they are doing a phenomenal job of holding meetings full of playtime.

Harrow

We found Old Man in southern Los Angeles where we were trapping cats. Old Man was begging to go indoors, but was unable to find shelter as his person passed away, and the remaining family members would not let him back inside. When we found him, his short hair was extremely matted and his left ear completely mangled. Most of his teeth were broken off probably due to fighting with other cats. After he was hospitalized, we discovered he was also suffering from stomatitis! We also discovered that, alas, he was never neutered. Upon hospitalization, we hooked him up to an IV and got him hydrated and a complete checkup. He is probably one of the sickest cats we have ever come across. Despite everything our sweet senior citizen has been through, he purred throughout his examination and made us fall in love with him.

After his examination, he was put on a strict weight gain diet as he was in semi-starvation mode and his fleas were treated. Although his URI came back with awful results as well as a respiratory infection, we were able to get him onto antibiotics for further treatment. After his recovery, he has become an integral member of ACR's foster program, acting as a foster dad to numerous young kittens in ACR's care. He has helped these kittens overcome illness and find strength and courage while recovering. He acts as the best surrogate dad and loves to cuddle any kitten who comes his way.

The Situation in Los Angeles

As of October 2019, Los Angeles Animal Services' Woof Stat Report disclosed that to date there has been a total intake of 22,798 cats, or in other words, a 15% increase in the year of 2019. Additionally, in the past year there is a 32% jump from last year in the number of cats dying in shelters. The highest number of deaths is ascribed to euthanasia practices in L.A. shelters, a result of the lack of TNR.

The situation in L.A. is deeply concerning and unlikely to improve without a TNR program supported by the city.

continued on page 6

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.

URGENTLY NEEDED: A Used Car for Los Angeles



Alley Cat Rescue is always on the move, whether it's traveling to and from TNR (trap-neuter-return) projects, transporting cats, taking strays to the vet for medical treatment, or driving to a managed colony to ensure they are taken care of and well-fed. It is important that we have a reliable vehicle to ensure a safe way to transport these sweet alley cats!

We urgently need a van to transport feral cats in traps to the spay clinic several times a week in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is currently undergoing a crisis, where thousands of unsterilized cats are roaming the streets. Alley Cat Rescue is doing our best to help stop kittens from being born on the streets. 50% of these kittens get sick from treatable diseases and can die if left untreated.

We're also looking for a donation of another vehicle for our program in Maryland. Do you have a car or van to help us with our daily operations?

Please contact us to learn more about vehicle donation. Not only is your contribution tax deductible, you will gain peace of mind knowing that your old vehicle is being used to save cats' lives!



2019 Financial Report

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Public Support:

Contributions and Donations	\$1,406,741
Legacies and Bequests	\$502,772
Grants.....	\$80,140
Total Public Support.....	\$1,989,653
Other Revenue	\$238,982
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,228,635

EXPENSES

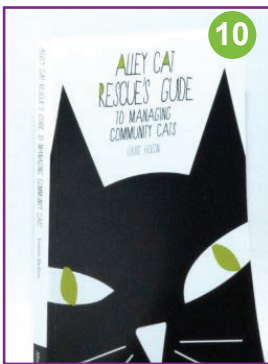
Programs:

Newsletters and Publications	\$199,033
Advocacy & Promoting Spay/Neuter ...	\$569,439
Education and Public Relations.....	\$282,982
Direct Care & Services	\$368,582
National & Global Programs	\$166,442
Campaigns & Outreach	\$307,181
Total Program Expenses.....	\$1,893,659

Supporting Services:

Management and General.....	\$135,329
Development	\$296,375
Total Supporting Services	\$431,704
Total Expenses	\$2,325,363





ORDER FORM

Name _____ Order Total \$ _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

#	ITEM	PRICE	SIZE (Please Circle)	# OF ITEMS	TOTAL
1	Black V-neck T-shirt	\$20	S M L		\$
2	Black Long Sleeve Shirt	\$25	S M L		\$
3	Grey Cat Face T-shirt	\$11	S M		\$
4	White Cat Face T-shirt	\$11	S M L XL 2XL 3XL		\$
5	African Wildcat T-shirt	\$16	S M L XL		\$
6	Navy Blue Hooded Sweatshirt	\$15	S		\$
7	Grocery Tote	\$5	N/A		\$
8	Canvas Handbag	\$12	N/A		\$
9	African Wildcat Shoulder Tote Bag	\$10	N/A		\$
10	Cat Rescue's Guide to Managing Community Cats Paperback Book	\$9	N/A		\$
11	Reusable bottle	\$8	N/A		\$
12	African Wildcat Bracelet - Help save the African Wildcat	\$10	N/A		\$

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

Maryland residents ONLY please remember to add the appropriate sales tax.

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

All donations are tax-deductible.

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

Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card Number _____ CCV# _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

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Tom Ragusa, *Finance Associate*

Support Our Work Saving Lives

Planned Giving

Annuities can help you reach your personal financial goals and strengthen your commitment to 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 \$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 • PO Box 585, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712
Phone: 301-277-5595 • Email: acr@saveecat.org

Wills and Bequests

You can support our work for cats long into the future by including Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. in your estate plans. This will ensure that the love and care you show for cats continues on and provides you with the peace of mind that your legacy will provide for 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, having its principle 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."



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AN ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION www.SaveACat.org

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