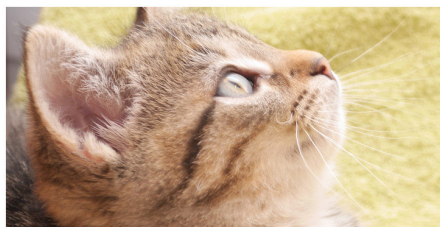
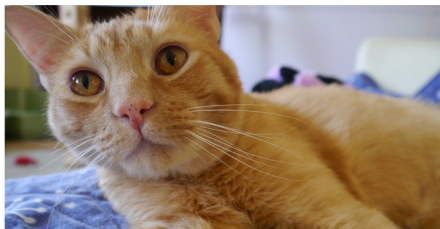
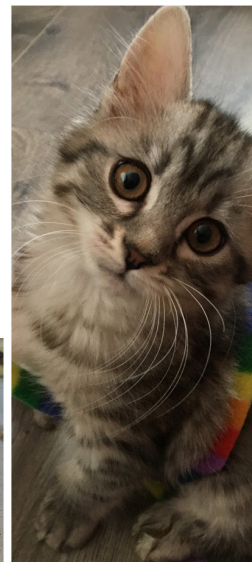




# ALLEY CAT RESCUE

AN ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION [www.SaveACat.org](http://www.SaveACat.org)



## ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year- August 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017



### Mission Statement

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

### Our Work

- ACR promotes compassion and nonlethal care for cats through effective programs
- ACR is a national resource for assisting individuals to help cats
- ACR helps individuals locate free and low cost spay/neuter programs
- ACR assists with cat behavioral problems to keep cats in their homes
- ACR Promotes a better understanding of feline diseases
- ACR's *National Cat Action Teams* assist groups and individuals help domestic and community cats
- ACR's programs and information help keep cats out of the shelter system through:
  - Neuter-before-adoption
  - Early age spay/neuter
  - TNR (trap-neuter-return)
  - ACR's May Spay Challenge for veterinarians
  - Education and training



## From the Desk of Louise Holton

Many people helped get Alley Cat Rescue off the ground. I started with no money and 36 rescued cats on boarding. Some said I could not succeed again especially at my age! I was in my late 50's but I had a passion for helping cats especially the forgotten and much-maligned feral cats. And I was determined to continue the work I had started in 1990 when I cofounded the first national group for community cats. These special and precious cats needed all the help they could get and I still had a lot to offer. And you, dear ACR members — all 160,000 of you — believed in us and helped us grow to include an office plus 6 full-time staff members and 4 part-timers. We also have a few very dedicated volunteers. As you will

read in this 20-year Anniversary Report, we held a Mash-style Spay Camp in Mexico, we helped several Greek feral cat groups spay and neuter cats in Athens, we have helped in South Africa with a starter plan to keep the African Wildcat pure. This wildcat deserves to be saved--- she is the ancestor of our beloved domestic cat!



ACR cares for numerous colonies of feral cats on a daily basis



Feral cats being caught for the purpose of TNR

We started the first ever International Spay Day for feral cats and to date it has garnered the support of 1,200 veterinarians who have spayed and neutered over 30,000 feral cats free!

We have conducted the first ever National Feral Cat Survey and the results from the second one showed that well over 600,000 feral cats have been neutered in the U.S, which is one reason euthanasia rates are steadily going down in U.S. shelters. If feral cats can be kept out of shelters where they do not belong, the number of healthy cats euthanized will go down even more.

To help bring this about our new *Alliance for Cat Protection* will work with more shelters to encourage TNR programs in their areas. We also have other new plans to make 2018 a new exciting year for community cats! We have active hands-on TNR programs in Los Angeles, Maryland and Virginia!



Your amazing commitment to help those kitties who cannot help themselves encourages us to do even more to stop the suffering. We have you to thank for all of this! We really appreciate all your support and would NOT be where we are right now without it!

Louise Holton  
President and Founder

A handwritten signature of Louise Holton in black ink.

# Meet Our Team

## THE DEDICATED STAFF OF ALLEY CAT RESCUE

Louise Holton, *President & Founder*  
Denise Hilton, *Director of Operations*  
Nikolette Cochran, *Program Manager*  
Elizabeth Thomas, *Director of Development*  
Brianna Grant, *Communications Associate*  
Matt Carl, *Associate Director of Communications*  
Cheryl Noll, *Volunteer Colony Caretaker*  
Tom Ragusa, *Finance Associate*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Louise Holton, *President*  
Peggy Hilden  
Virginia Messina, MPH, RD  
Susanna Delman, MPH

## WEST COAST PROGRAMS

Desiree Stapley, *Director of West Coast Operations*

## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Marsha Dabolt, *Outlaw Kitties*  
Elizabeth Marshall Thomas  
Verne Smith, Esq.  
Roger Tabor, CBiol, FSB, MPhil, FCFBA, FBNAhc



301-277-5595  
acr@saveacat.com



ACR team members examine a cat as part of our intake procedure



Cheryl feeding ACR community cats that she cares for



Brianna hard at work while Pelussa and Jughead relax



Construction of feral cat feeding stations



Deb, one of our volunteers, assists Niki with bathing a kitten

# ACR Celebrates 20 Years!

- 1997:** Louise Holton founded Alley Cat Rescue. ACR's goals are to help all cats, domestic and free-roaming around the world and to promote no-kill and to keep feral cats out of shelters
- 1998:** Holton presented workshops on feral cats at the Western Veterinary Medicine Conference
- 1999:** Holton visited The Ocean Reef community cat colony in Key Largo, Florida to report to their board on their successful TNR project- a model for others to follow
- 2001:** ACR's adoption program and National Cat Action Teams began
- 2002:** Our newsletter, *Alley Cat Mews* and our first handbook, *Feral Cat Colony Management* won awards from the *Cat Writers Association*
- 2004:** Holton was given the President's Award from the *Cat Writers' Association* for her article, "Veterinary Care: Guidelines for Veterinarians Treating Feral Cats"
- 2005:** ACR published our Volume 5 Issue 2 newsletter, "The War on Cats", which brought global awareness to the exaggerated claims of cats' effect on the environment
- 2005:** ACR rescued cats displaced by Hurricane Katrina.
- 2007:** ACR's newsletter, *Alley Cat Mews*, won a Muse Medallion from the *Cat Writers' Association*
- 2008:** ACR traveled to South Africa to launch our campaign to save the African Wildcat from hybridization
- 2008:** ACR petition urging the International Olympic Committee not to host the games in countries that cull community cats gained 12,000 signatures

**1997**  
Founding of  
Alley Cat Rescue



**2005**  
Rescued cats  
affected by  
Hurricane Katrina



**2001**  
Start of CAT  
Action Team Network  
and adoption program



**2008**  
Launched campaign  
to save the African Wildcat  
through TNR programs



**2010:** ACR launched Feral Cat Spay Day to encourage veterinarians to sterilize feral cats

**2011:** ACR worked with Best Friends Animal Society's letter urging the Department of Interior to meet with animal protection groups to discuss TNR

**2012:** ACR's first survey to feral cat groups revealed that the majority of feral cat groups provide spay/neuter services to owned and community cats and 96% of TNR groups practice spay/neuter before adoption

**2014:** ACR funded two waves of cats and dogs to be flown from Cairo, Egypt to the US. The cats and dogs were being mutilated and tortured in the city. They were flown to the US and one of the cats was adopted by the feminist author, Gloria Steinem

**2014:** ACR took in 5 cats that were rescued from Iraq. A U.S. Diplomatic Security Service employee rescued cats living in war zones. We met him at the airport with a mama cat and her four kittens and found them forever homes

**2015:** Louise Holton published her handbook, *Alley Cat Rescue's Guide to Managing Community Cats*

**2016:** ACR helped in the rescue effort for 30 cats dumped in the rain at a nearby shelter. We helped facilitate the rescue of all the cats and found the cats new homes

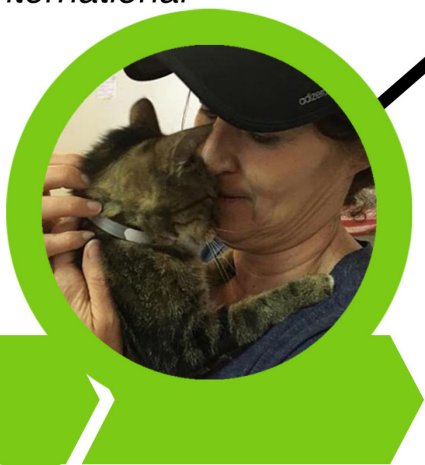
**2016:** ACR launched our Cheap Fix Spay/Neuter Clinic. This twice-a-month clinic offers low-cost services to community and pet cats. This program has also resulted in lower intake numbers at local shelters

**2017:** Our annual May Spay Challenge resulted in over 30,000 cats getting fixed by over 1,200 veterinarians in 45 states, Croatia, Canada, Israel and South Africa

**2017:** ACR sent three teams to Texas and helped rescue cats in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey by bringing them back with us and finding them forever homes

**2010**  
Launched International  
Feral Cat  
Spay Day

**2017**  
Rescued cats  
affected by  
Hurricane Harvey



**2015**  
Release of  
ACR's award  
winning *Guide  
to Managing  
Community Cats*

# Financial Report

August 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017

## SUPPORT & REVENUE

### *Public Support:*

Contributions and donations.....	\$936,348
Legacies and bequests.....	\$368,361
Grants.....	\$22,677
<i>Net assets released from restrictions:</i>	
Expiration of time restrictions.....	\$189,992
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions.....	\$13,804
<b>Total Public Support.....</b>	<b>\$1,531,182</b>

### *Other Revenue:*

Investment (loss) income.....	(\$58)
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment.....	(\$1,612)
Adoption fees.....	\$780
Mailing list rentals.....	\$27,705
Other Income.....	\$187
Merchandise sales, net.....	\$8,111
<b>Total Other Revenue.....</b>	<b>\$35,113</b>
<b><u>Total Support and Revenue.....</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,566,295</u></b>

## EXPENSES

### *Programs:*

Newsletters and Publications.....	\$122,745
Promoting Spay/Neuter.....	\$334,440
Education and Public Relations...\$188,718	
Adoptions & Trap-Neuter- Return Programs.....	\$235,058
National Cat Action Teams.....	\$99,780
Prevention of Unwanted Kitten Litters.....	\$210,697
<b>Total Program Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$1,191,438</b>

### *Supporting Services:*

Management and general.....	\$52,601
Development.....	\$151,134
<b>Total Supporting Services.....</b>	<b>\$203,735</b>

**Total Expenses.....** **\$1,395,173**



## Help Support Our Work!

### **Planned Giving:**

Annuities help your personal financial goals and strengthen our work to help 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 call 301-277-5595, email [acr@saveacat.org](mailto:acr@saveacat.org), or write P.O. Box 585, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712.

### **Wills and Bequests:**

Consider Alley Cat Rescue in your estate plans. This will ensure that your love and care for cats continues beyond your lifetime. 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."

# Alley Cat Rescue in the Field

While Alley Cat Rescue is headquartered in Maryland, we are involved in rescue and advocacy efforts throughout the country. Our efforts brought us to North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia to conduct three day workshops on TNR. The first day of the workshop, entitled *Community Cats 101*, was open to all community members and went over the importance and implementation of TNR programs. On the second day, ACR worked with Animal Control Officers in the field and taught them how to handle and trap community cats. We went to areas with community cats and trapped them. On the third day the trapped cats were brought to the clinic and training was given on medical care for the cats. In Roanoke, Virginia alone we spayed and neutered 50 cats. We also worked in North Carolina to urge the state to pass a bill banning the use of gas chamber euthanasia for cats. In 2014, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announced a new policy that prohibits gas chamber euthanasia.



A kitten, in need of medical care, captured by an ACR team member



Acorn and Crow are 2 of the 25 cats that our team rescued from areas affected by Hurricane Harvey

This year ACR sent a team down to Texas to help the locals recover from Hurricane Harvey. We rescued a total of 25 cats from local shelters. Our rescue efforts also included paddle boating through the devastation to rescue pets left behind. We met many amazing people and animals and were inspired by their strength in this difficult time.

Much of our field work is done right here in Maryland. We have seven community cat colonies that ACR staff and volunteers feed every day. This is done through rain and shine and during every holiday. We have been caring for these colonies since 2010 when other caregivers reached out to us as they could no longer care for the colonies.

ACR also helps field work indirectly by providing grants to organizations to perform TNR. We have provided grants to amazing organizations such as Barn Cat Buddies, Mountainview Humane, and Little Buddies.



look for us on Facebook,  
Twitter and Instagram



2 young kittens during one of ACR's TNR outings

# Alley Cat Rescue Works to Help Cats Across the Globe

Alley Cat Rescue believes in advocating for all cats, in the US and globally. This is why we are dedicated to international projects in places such as South Africa, Greece and Mexico.

ACR founder, Louise Holton, grew up in South Africa and has spent many years helping community cats in the country. In December 2010, Louise returned to South Africa and initiated a TNR program outside Pilanesberg Game Reserve. ACR has programs in South Africa to TNR local community cats in Sun City and help save the African Wildcat. The African Wildcat is the ancestor of today's domestic cat and is in danger of extinction. Although the species is protected by CITES Appendix II, the population is still declining. The species faces many threats from habitat loss to conflict with humans and hybridization with domestic/stray/community cats.

In the spring of 2007, we held a successful spay/neuter clinic in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. In two days we spayed and neutered over 100 cats and dogs. We worked with passionate locals to create a mash-style spay/neuter clinic. This helped to reduce the large number of stray cats and dogs living in the Puerto Vallarta area.



An African Wildcat  
(the ancestor of our domestic cats)



A community cat in Athens, Greece

This year ACR visited Greece and helped TNR local cats. Greece has many free roaming cats and our president, Louise Holton, saw cats relaxing at archaeological sites such as the Acropolis, taverns and inside restaurants. We donated to Greek animal rescue groups who were able to expand their TNR efforts and provide veterinary care for cats in need.

Our international connections have led us to other countries such as Sudan, Iraq, Egypt, and Croatia. International work is an important part of our mission and we look forward to continuing our global work in the coming year.

## Keep an eye out for...

- The launch of a cat activist newsletter detailing local, state and national legislation and policies
- ACR is working to build coalitions between the veterinary community, cat caretakers, animal shelters, health professionals, wildlife agencies, town councils and city mayors.
- Continuing our program in South Africa to save the Wildcat



# Donate to cats in need today...

**\$25** will provide one week of antibiotics to 2 cats

**\$50** will provide the rabies vaccinations for 16 cats

**\$100** will feed 4 cats for 8 months

**\$250** will microchip 31 cats

**\$1,000** will spay/neuter and vaccinate 20 cats



Your donations allow us to continue this life saving work

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

## Making the News

Alley Cat Rescue has been busy the past few years and we've had the opportunity to showcase our work through media outlets. In 2015, we made headlines when we launched a partnership with the check-in app Swarm. For a short term period, whenever someone checked in on their Swarm app and used the Grumpy cat emoji, the parent group Foursquare provided us with a donation. This was a great opportunity to fundraise worldwide and make it easy for people to donate to our organization.

We were featured on the podcasts, the Community Cats Podcast and Dog Talk (and Kitties Too!), in late 2017 to discuss our campaign against community cat bounty hunting in Banana Shire, Australia. Our Communications Associate, Brianna Grant, spoke about our petition, which has reached over 141,000 signatures, as well as how this bounty will be ineffective in controlling the cat population. Both of these podcasts will be aired in February 2018.

ACR gained media attention for our rescue work as well. In May of this year, a cat with a severe eye infection was given to us. We treated his infection but unfortunately his eyes had ruptured and needed to be removed. Leon did not let this keep him down and learned how to go up and down stairs, play and interact with others. Leon got his happy ending when a cat-savvy couple came in to adopt and fell in love with Leon. Leon is now thriving in his new home and is best friends with the couple's Yorkie. After Leon found a home, we rescued another cat who needed eye removal surgery. We named this sweet and lovable kitten Sputnik. He became an instant star and was featured on WUSA9 here in Washington, DC. He was adopted by a loving family and became attached to their Bengal cat.



Sputnik after his eye removal surgery

We love the opportunity to have our work showcased in the news and hope 2018 is full of happy news for cats and ACR's programs.

# Scientific Advances in Cat Fertility Control

Traditionally, veterinarians sterilize kittens around six months of age. However, studies have shown that early-age spay/neuter surgery between eight and 16 weeks of age is safe and helps decrease cat overpopulation. A female cat can become pregnant as young as four months old and could have her kittens before some veterinarians would even recommend spaying. ACR was one of the first cat advocacy groups to endorse and use this practice. Early age spay/neuter can reduce or eliminate the risk of health problems such as pyometra, cervical, uterine and mammary cancer, prostatic enlargement and FIV. Some cat owners are resistant to early age spay/neuter because of common myths. Despite popular belief, there are no health benefits of a female having a litter of kittens prior to being spayed. This misconception is false and prominent animal health groups such as the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Animal Hospital Association endorse early age spay/neuter.

Alley Cat Rescue has been tracking scientific advances relating to non-surgical sterilization in the forms of vaccines, oral medication and implants. Oral progestins have to be regularly dosed to cats for effectiveness, while an injection of progestins can suppress fertility for around six months. A study of an oral progestin found that oral doses given to cats every 24 hours for 12 months was 100% effective at preventing pregnancy. Another potential form of feline contraception is the vaccine GonaCon but it is currently only approved for use in white tailed deer and wild horses and burros by the EPA. Testing of GonaCon on cats has been conducted and has found it can be effective at preventing pregnancy for over 3 years.

Non-surgical sterilization techniques can be controversial especially when applied to community cats. Using progestins for sterilization would usually involve lacing cat food with the drug which can cause problems if non-target animals, prepubertal cats, pregnant cats or humans come into contact with the drug. Additionally, it would be difficult for cat caregivers to ensure that all female cats receive their weekly dosage. Alley Cat Rescue is waiting for more testing to be done on non-surgical sterilization techniques before we endorse their use. At this moment we believe TNR is the most effective means for cat population control.



Kittens that are 2 months or older and that weigh 2 or more lbs. can be spayed/neutered



**Your generous donations allow us to improve the lives of cats like these. Thank You!**



**All sales help ACR to Spay/Neuter Cats!**

**ORDER FORM**

*cut along dotted line*

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

#	ITEM	OLD PRICE	SALE PRICE	SIZE (Please Circle)	No. of Items	Total
1	"Cat Face" T-shirt (specify grey)	<del>\$20</del>	\$16	S, L, XL		\$
2	"Cat Face" T-shirt (specify white)	<del>\$20</del>	\$16	S, M, L, XL, 2 XL, 3 XL		\$
3	Water Bottle (teal)	<del>\$10</del>	\$8	N/A		\$
4	Alley Cat Rescue V-Neck Black T-shirt	<del>\$18</del>	\$14	S, M, L, 2 XL		\$
5	"TNR is the cat's meow" blue hooded sweatshirt	<del>\$30</del>	\$20	M, L, XL, 2 XL, 3 XL		\$
6	Grocery Bag (white)	<del>\$10</del>	\$5	N/A		\$
7	Tote Bag (grey, black, and hunter green)	<del>\$15</del>	\$12	N/A		\$
8	Alley Cat Rescue Black Long Sleeve Shirt	<del>\$20</del>	\$16	S, M, L, XL		\$
9	ACR's Guide to Managing Community Cats (book)	<del>\$15.99</del>	\$10.99	N/A		\$
					<b>Sub Total</b>	\$

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.

Sales Tax	+\$
Shipping**	+\$7.00
Donation	+\$
Total	\$

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

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.**

# Call to Action! Get Involved!

The May Spay Challenge is a month-long initiative to save lives and promote the spaying and neutering of feral cats. Alley Cat Rescue is calling on the veterinary community to provide free or low-cost sterilization for feral cats during the month of May. By mailing in the form below, or visiting [tinyurl.com/mayspay2018](http://tinyurl.com/mayspay2018), we will invite your local vet clinic to participate in this lifesaving challenge!

Please send an invitation letter to my local veterinarian clinic to join the May Spay Challenge.

Vet clinic name: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Does this clinic already provide  
TNR services to community cats?  Yes  No



## The Alley Cat Rescue Outdoor CATIO is now completed and the cats LOVE it!

