



# ALLEY CAT RESCUE

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

SPRING 2017



## From the Desk of Louise Holton

Alley Cat Rescue has been calling for a few years for an urgent shift in pet owners' thinking in order to put an end to the killing of millions of cats and kittens in our nations' shelters.

We have always advocated that people neuter their cats earlier than the traditional six months. We are happy to join with the *Feline Fix by Five* team, as five months old is the latest you should wait to spay a cat. After that they may already be pregnant. You can of course spay/neuter earlier.



"Getting the neutering message across is proving to be a very tough hurdle for cat welfare because our research shows the vast majority of people are still not neutering their cats early enough to avoid unwanted litters of kittens," explains Jane Clements of Cats Protection United Kingdom.

"Without neutering, the UK's cat population quickly gets out of control and each summer we are overwhelmed with kittens in need of homes so it is vital people ensure their cats are neutered early to prevent unwanted litters."

In 1998 Bob Christiansen wrote a book, *Save Our Strays*, wherein he mentioned four surveys in Massachusetts, Santa Clara and San Diego, California, and Las Vegas, Nevada found that between 86 percent and 91 percent of owned female cats were spayed. However 20 percent of these cats had had one or two litters before they were spayed.



**FELINE FIX**  
by **FIVE MONTHS**  
**it saves lives**

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

New research shows that British and American cat owners harbor some pretty serious misconceptions about the reproductive habits of their feline companions. A study of British

cat owners, for example, found that 84 percent of the 715 people surveyed thought cats can't get pregnant before the age of six months, which isn't true.

Half of the U. K. respondents also said they thought female cats should have a litter before being spayed.

Due to these misconceptions, a total of 850,000 unplanned kittens are born each year in the United Kingdom, according to the study, published in *the Journal of Veterinary Record*. Due to these unplanned pregnancies, as many as 150,000 kittens end up in British shelters every year, Murray told Live Science.

"Cat overpopulation is at crisis levels," said Julie Levy, director of Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida's college of veterinary medicine. A total of 3 million to 4 million cats end up at U.S. shelters every year, and half of them are euthanized, Levy told Live Science.

"It's interesting that this study from the U.K. confirms findings in the U.S., that pet owners are confused about the reproductive lives of their cats, and that this lack of awareness about how quickly cats can reproduce contributes to unwanted litters and cat overpopulation," Levy said.



Louise Holton  
*President and Founder*

Cat overpopulation strains animal shelters.

"One thing I would say ... there's no health benefits to motherhood for cats," Jane Murray, an Epidemiologist at the University of Bristol, said. Spaying female cats can actually reduce the likelihood of ovarian cancer, for example, she added. And neutering and spaying cats early enough could also help fight cat overpopulation, which leads to cats being euthanized, Levy said.

## Call to Action! Get Involved!

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

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

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

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

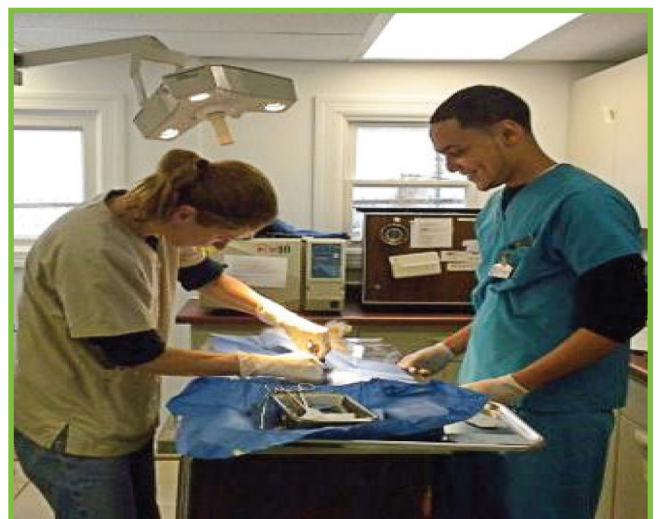
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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





## Meet Our Team

### THE DEDICATED STAFF OF ALLEY CAT RESCUE

Denise Hilton, *Director of Operations*

Nikolette Cochran, *Administrator*

Matt Carl, *Associate Director of Communications*

Tom Ragusa, *Finance Associate*

Cheryl Noll, *Volunteer Colony Caretaker*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Louise Holton, *President*

Peggy Hilden

Virginia Messina, MPH, RD

Claudia Delman

### ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Marsha Dabolt, *Outlaw Kitties*

Elizabeth Marshall Thomas

Verne Smith, Esq.

Roger Tabor, CBiol, FSB, MPhil, FCFBA, FBNAhc

## Support Our Work

### Planned Giving:

This will provide you with an opportunity to meet your personal financial goals and will strengthen our work to help cats in the future. Enjoy tax savings and turn appreciated assets into income for yourself and others. Charitable gift annuities allow you to make a gift of \$5,000, \$10,000, or more and receive fixed interest payments for life, as well as tax deductions. For more information, request our planned giving brochure by calling 301-277-5595, emailing us at [acr@saveecat.org](mailto:acr@saveecat.org), or by sending us a written correspondence to: 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."



Cheryl feeding one of the many feral/community cats that ACR cares for on a daily basis.

# Donate a car for cats!



Alley Cat Rescue is constantly on the move, whether it's for a TNR effort, transporting cats to the Vet, or simply running to the store to pick up supplies. We've logged many many miles on our current go-to cat transport vehicle over the years. Sadly its days are coming to an end and we are in need of a replacement.

If you have a used vehicle, preferably a van or large SUV, that you would like to donate please contact us. Not only is your donation tax deductible but you will have the peace of mind knowing that your old vehicle is being used to save cat's lives.

# Gingivostomatitis in Cats



Gingivostomatitis is a severe and very painful dental disease of the gums that affects cats. The condition is most frequently diagnosed among cats who are infected with FIV, but I have had cats with this disease who are FIV-free.

It seems to be an abnormal immune response to plaque, the bacteria that accumulates on the surface of teeth. The plaque can cause the immune system to overreact. Stress can also weaken a cat's immune system. Drs. Addie and Radford wrote in the *Journal of Small Animal Practice* in April 2003 that the Feline calicivirus was present in 100% of the cases they studied.

You should have your vet check your cat's teeth regularly, but especially if the cat has pain when eating. If there are signs of redness or bleeding around the gums get the cat to the vet ASAP. If your cat loses weight, and stops eating, it could be dental disease. Bad breath in a cat is another sign. Dental disease can be a silent killer.

Jennifer Rawlinson, DVM, chief of the dentistry and oral surgery section at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine says: "The immune system becomes overly reactive to plaque and causes severe inflammation in the gingiva, initially around an affected tooth and then quickly progressing to the tissue in the surrounding area. By the time a cat's owner has noticed the inflammation, it is likely to have spread well beyond the tissue immediately around the affected tooth, potentially involving the tissue in the back of the mouth—the glossopalatine arch—and beneath the tongue."

Treatment will typically involve medical management using drugs to suppress the immune system and control the proliferation of bacteria in an affected animal's mouth; or surgical which is usually removal of all of a cat's teeth. "If you get rid of all of the teeth," says Dr. Rawlinson, "you'll be getting rid of all associated bacteria. Once a cat gets over a full-mouth extraction—which will take between five and 10 days—it can go on to thrive very well. About 60 percent of cats will need no further medical management and will have a high quality of life. It won't have a normal oral cavity, but it will have such minimal inflammation that it won't need medication."

In my experience many veterinarians seem to be reluctant to remove "healthy" teeth in a cat with stomatitis. If so, do show him/her this article or download the Fact Sheet from Cornell. Cats are hard to medicate and when they have a painful mouth it is even harder to get meds into them.

I have had several cats' teeth removed and it helped tremendously, including Baby Jill, pictured on the following page.







## Baby Jill's Story

One day around 9 years ago I got a call from our local Petsmart. An elderly woman had driven to the store and along the way she heard a kitten crying. She kept driving the few miles between the store and her home, and when she got to the store asked the store manager to check her car. The manager found a tiny hissy fluffy black kitten in the cars' engine. They called me and I took the kitten to the animal hospital. He was unharmed and the hospital staff called him Miracle. He was around 3 weeks old and needed to be bottle fed, so I took him home. He was feral and spat and hissed at me for a couple weeks but did enjoy the drinking from the bottle! Eventually he grew into a big fluffy Maine Coon lookalike, and as I had another feral

Maine Coon named Jill who looked exactly like Miracle, we started calling the kitten Baby Jill!

This year Baby Jill stopped eating and pawed at his mouth, crying out. The vet diagnosed Gingivitis with ulcers and started treating him with meds. The pain and discomfort continued for a few weeks until I persuaded the vet to extract the teeth. Within a week after surgery, Baby Jill managed to eat pain-free.

I do not know why this kitty got stomatitis. He never had any signs of the Feline calicivirus, he was FIV-free and honestly did not ever seem stressed to me. But the main point being that extraction of the teeth, although a drastic move, did help him. He eats canned food well and every day eats some dry food as well.

## ACR awarded charity of the month by Sticky Fingers Vegan Bakery!



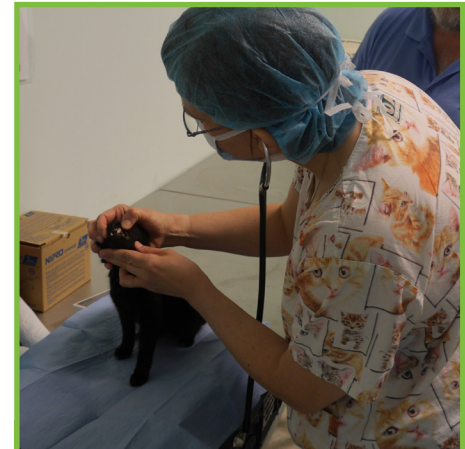
Alley Cat Rescue was honored to be awarded Charity of the Month at Sticky Fingers Vegan Bakery, located in Washington, DC. They created cat themed cupcakes in our honor and donated a portion of each sale to us!



Tiger Lilly found a loving home with Erin & Chris.



ACR team member, Nikki, caring for baby Pistachio.

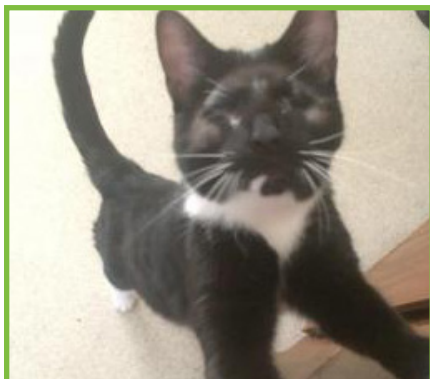


Vet Tech administering care to a kitty we brought in.



Group of kittens who were brought into ACR for care after being rescued off the street.

Boots the cat enjoys his time rolling around in a paper bag.



Leon had to have both of his eyes surgically removed but has been adapting quite well.



As part of our intake procedure, kittens get checked for weight. Baby Murray weighs in at only 13.9 ounces.



Baby Pistachio taking some of his first steps!

Your donations are at work here. We could not have done any of this life-saving work without your help and support!





Visit our online store at [SaveACat.org/store](http://SaveACat.org/store) for a complete list of merchandise. All sales benefit community 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, M, 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, XL, 2 XL, 3 XL		\$
5	"I Am A Cat Angel" Red Long Sleeve Shirt	<del>\$20</del>	\$8	Small & Large Only		\$
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, L, 3 XL		\$
9	ACR's Guide to Managing Community Cats (book)	<del>\$15.99</del>	\$10.99	N/A		\$
					<b>Sub Total</b>	\$
					Sales Tax	+\$
					<b>Shipping**</b>	+\$7.00
					Donation	+\$
					<b>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.

**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.**



Mama cat and her kitties on their way to the Veterinary Clinic as part of our regular spay/neuter program.

# Cheap Fix Clinic Saves Lives

Each year nearly 2 million healthy and adoptable animals are euthanized in shelters. Every 13 seconds, an animal who would have been a loving and loyal companion loses her life, often because the resources needed to care for her and find her a home simply aren't available.

Twice a month, Alley Cat Rescue takes the issue of pet overpopulation head-on by holding our Cheap Fix Cat Clinic. By offering low-cost services for community and pet cats, we reduce the number of adoptable kittens and cats needlessly killed in overcrowded shelters, as well as the number of cats living outdoors.

Since launching our Cheap Fix Cat Clinic, Alley Cat Rescue has provided these important services for numerous cats and kittens in our community, and we are eager to help more!

Over the last 20 years ACR has been spaying and neutering cats in the Washington, DC Metro area. During that time, we have sterilized around 40,000 cats. ***Please consider making a tax-deductible donation so that we can continue to offer these life-saving services and reach more cats in need.***



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Alley Cat Rescue  
PO Box 585  
Mt. Rainier, MD 20712  
301-277-5595

