



# ALLEY CAT RESCUE

## ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION

*Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of cats everywhere.*

[www.SaveACat.org](http://www.SaveACat.org) • 301-277-5595 • PO Box 96499, Washington, DC 20077

### KITTENS ABANDONED IN A BOX NEAR A BUSY STREET AND OTHER RESCUE STORIES



*Abandoned Kittens*

Late September, we found two 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. They have been sweethearts through it all and it breaks our hearts that they were left in such a dangerous situation.



*Fiero*

When we first trapped little flame point, Fiero from a colony, he was not used to being handled by people. Although he wasn't aggressive or defensive, he didn't seek out human affection. We were sure he would eventually become a "lap cat," and after some time and patience, he grew to become the sweetest boy who is super social with both other cats and people.



*Willow and Polly*

Willow was found under a car, covered in ants in over 100 degrees! Another kitty, Polly, was also found orphaned a short time later. As soon as Polly began weaning off the bottle, we put the two together so they could learn from one another and play together. They quickly became close friends.

We trapped two litters of kittens while doing TNR in a colony in Reseda, CA. The mamas were spayed and released to happily enjoy their outdoor home, where they are monitored and fed – and don't have to struggle with any more heat cycles or pregnancies!



*Reseda Colony*

Both sets of kittens were fearful of people and quite feisty, despite being so young. With a lot of patience and hard work from our wonderful fosters, they all came around at their own pace and now enjoy being loved by humans. All of the kittens from the first litter have been adopted and those from the second litter are now

*Continued on page 4...*

### HELPING TO STOP THE KILLING OF CATS IN SHELTERS

Let's be very clear; we are not blaming shelters here. It is simply a fact that today, even though the numbers have improved over the years, we are still in the midst of this tragedy in our nation. Last year, close to 400,000 cats in the shelter system were euthanized. And nearly an additional 100,000 cats died while in shelters--a number not often spoken about. Cats get very stressed when moved from their homes into an animal shelter or rescue facility. Stress causes them to easily pick up viruses like upper respiratory disease, which can be treated, but many facilities do not have the resources to medicate animals. Therefore many cats die while they are in their custody, sadly losing their lives too early.

Alley Cat Rescue has been working to keep cats out of shelters, which will put an end to the killing and deaths that occur in shelters. We can only do this if we help people keep their cats rather than relinquish them, and if we can convince shelters to recommend TNR (trap-neuter-return of feral cats). ACR wants to keep feral cats from being turned in to shelters as most euthanize unsocialized cats if they don't have a TNR program.

Alley Cat Rescue has started a new campaign---reaching out to every shelter in the country to find out their stance towards feral cats. We will find out what is happening at shelters around the country, and reach out to help them with the feral cats in their towns and cities.

Fewer people are adopting and fostering right now. The main reasons: people are returning to the office after a year of offices being closed, or some are trying to find a new career and many are still going away on vacation. Unfortunately it's still "kitten season". Shelters are overrun with kittens. We do understand they have to make life-and-death decisions. Which is why we want to keep cats and kittens out of these facilities. Many of the kittens are from the streets and from backyards of businesses and homes. Cats are living there, eking out a living as best they can.

ACR wants to partner with shelters in the country and to encourage them to work with TNR groups. This will keep a lot of kittens out of shelters. Plus we want to increase our work with veterinarians to continue to save cats' lives and put an end to euthanasia.



Louise Holton  
President/Founder

### Call to Action

Find out if your shelter encourages trap-neuter-return for feral cats. If they don't, send the name of the CEO and their mailing address to [debbie@saveacat.org](mailto:debbie@saveacat.org) or our PO box, and we will send them information.

## FEEDING COMMUNITY CATS

There are outdoor cats in most neighborhoods in the U.S. According to surveys, 26% of cat owners help community cats survive by providing them with food. Many cats, especially those recently abandoned, do not know how to hunt for their food, so this food put out for them helps them survive. However, it is extremely important that feeders understand that, while feeding community cats benefits the cats it could cause more problems if it is not done in conjunction with TNR.

More resources for a colony increases the health and lifespan of the cats, which is the goal...as long as these positives are not allowed to result in the naturally occurring consequence of more litters. If the cats are not fixed and vaccinated, the colony will grow exponentially each year. The same percentage of kittens will continue to catch diseases and suffer as when the colony was smaller, which means greater numbers of kittens will meet that fate. Unneutered male cats will roam to other areas to look for mates, and spread the problem of overpopulation wherever they go. Eventually, the colony itself could become so large that it is difficult for people to provide for and, though this could lead to many of the cats there perishing, the overgrowth will remain – if not continue to increase – as cats continue to have multiple litters a year, with at least some kittens surviving to breeding age.

Unaltered community cats, and especially large

numbers of them, often lead to nuisance complaints due to spraying, females in heat yowling, and males fighting loudly. Unhappy citizens often lead to bans on feeding cats altogether, as was the case in Cleburne, Texas for example, which of course creates a hardship for the cats.

Managing colony populations with TNR, however, enables cats to get nutritious food while avoiding the complications of overpopulation. Alley cats are categorically domestic animals and as such, people should be responsible for ensuring their care and comfort as much as possible. Through TNR, we are able to do that for every individual cat and colony without compromising the big picture goal of the end of overpopulation.



## WORKING CATS PROGRAMS ARE GAINING POPULARITY

A “working cat” refers to a feral cat that is cared for (fed, sheltered, provided with medical care) by someone in exchange for the cat’s natural brand of pest control. Although it is always preferable for outdoor cats to remain in the area they are found, where they are most comfortable, Working Cats Programs provide the best option for unsocialized cats who had been trapped and sterilized but cannot be returned to their original locations because the area is not safe for them. In such situations, rescues hold on to the cats and put them up for adoption by individuals or businesses with properties like farms and warehouses where the cats can provide rodent control. The adopters are responsible for providing their cat with food, water, and veterinary care just as they would an indoor pet.

*Continued on page 4...*



## KITTENS ABANDONED IN A BOX NEAR A BUSY STREET AND OTHER RESCUE STORIES



Maximus

...continued from page 1

ready for homes.

Little orange tabby, Maximus, seemed to just appear one day at a colony where we were trapping. He was severely malnourished and underweight, so we had to hold back on getting him fixed until we'd fattened him up a little with yummy kitten food. During the wait, we got him a checkup with the vet, a B12, and antibiotic shot. He is now healthy and has been adopted.



BubbleGum

In addition to Pinto Bean, we have treated two more kittens successfully for FIP! Jessie and Cornbread can look forward to many years of love with their respective adopters. We are treating another two FIP kittens now, hoping for more great outcomes.

BubbleGum Update: Our little guy has an enlarged spleen and lymph nodes. Tests for every infectious disease have come back negative, leading our vet to think the cause could be early-stage cancer, which means he will be staying with us indefinitely as we monitor him closely. BubbleGum is still a happy kitten and we will continue giving him the very best care.

## WORKING CATS PROGRAMS ARE GAINING POPULARITY

...continued from page 3

Safe relocation of an outdoor cat to a new home requires specific protocol. The cat must be confined in a large crate or cage at the new location for two to three weeks in order to acclimate them to their new environment and help ensure they remain on the premises. During the confinement period, the new caretaker should spend time talking to the cat. This gets the cat used to human voices and helps form a connection between the cat and caretaker. For more safe relocation tips, visit [saveacat.org/relocation.html](http://saveacat.org/relocation.html).

Alley Cat Rescue has operated a Working Cats Program as a last resort for feral cats who could not stay in their outdoor homes. To date, we have helped 4,500 feral and semi-feral cats in seven states through our Working Cats Program. In one case, when the authorities of Riverside State Park in Virginia refused to allow the 34 cats living there to remain on the land, ACR relocated them as working cats. Although relocation is not our preference for any cat, in some situations such as this one there are no safe alternatives.

Over time, we have been happy to see more independent Working Cats Programs forming and

county and city Working Cat Programs popping up around the country! One well-publicized program in Chicago has released 1,000 cats throughout the city to control a serious rat problem. Similar programs have already proven successful in Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and New York City.

A list of Working Cats programs by state can be found at [saveacat.org/shelters-with-working-cat-progrmas.html](http://saveacat.org/shelters-with-working-cat-progrmas.html).



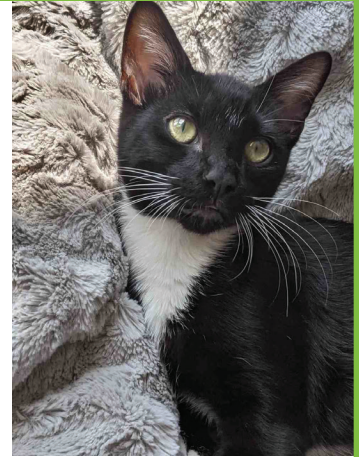
Mother and daughter, relocated to a barn home by ACR

# 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](mailto: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."

# What We Do

**Alley Cat Rescue is leading the way in promoting humane, nonlethal care for all cats.**

### Our Work

- Practice, support, and promote TNR for feral cats
- Help individuals locate free and low-cost spay/neuter programs
- Assist individuals with cat behavioral problems
- 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

- Keeping cats out of the shelter system, thus reducing death from disease and euthanasia
- Directly coordinating early-age spay/neuter and spay/neuter before adopting for thousands of cats
- Sterilization of hundreds of thousands of community cats, including over 130,000 through our annual global Feral Fix Challenge
- Influencing policy makers to support bills that protect cats

# TNR: GOOD FOR THE HEALTH OF ALL COMMUNITY CATS

A lot of people are uncomfortable with the “Return” part of Trap-Neuter-Return because they don’t like the idea of a cat living anything but the pampered life of an indoor pet. However, many cats live long, comfortable lives within managed colonies. This is partly due, of course, to the vaccinations they receive during the TNR process, but it is also a result of the cats being sterilized.

Sterilization has not been studied as thoroughly for its affects on community cat health as many other factors. However, there is still strong evidence indicating that sterilized free-roaming cats are on average healthier and live longer than unsterilized cats. A study conducted from 2012-2014 in Israel found that “In general, the health of sterilized free-roaming cats was found to be superior to that of intact free-roaming cats.”<sup>1</sup> Another study in San Jose, California found “a



20% reduction in the number of cats found dead in the city was observed four years after the implementation of an RTF program.”<sup>2</sup> This could theoretically be

attributed partly to neutered males being less inclined to roam and therefore remaining around or as part of managed colonies rather than exposing themselves to traffic and new predators.

A particularly interesting find from the study in Israel was that sterilizing cats within an area seems to positively affect the health of unsterilized cats in the area. Researches assessed the body conditions of sterilized and intact cats from several different areas, recording that “higher body-condition scores were associated with the presence of sterilized cats (as has been reported elsewhere) and were observed among both sterilized and intact cats in the area.”<sup>1</sup> The reason for this may be that sterilized cats are less competitive over resources, leaving easier access to them for everyone.

It should help ease the minds of those who are opposed to a cat living outside to remember that TNR is not a form of abandonment. It is an important step in allowing feral cats to live out full and happy lives in the only environment in which they are comfortable.

<sup>1</sup> “Sterilization improves the overall health of free-roaming cats in urban study.” National Feline Research Council, [www.felineresearch.org/post/sterilization-improves-feral-cat-health-israel-study](http://www.felineresearch.org/post/sterilization-improves-feral-cat-health-israel-study). Accessed 15 July 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Johnson, K.L.; Cicirelli, J. Study of the effect on shelter cat intakes and euthanasia from a shelter neuter return project of 10,080 cats from March 2010 to June 2014. *PeerJ* 2014, 2, e646.

## CALL-TO-ACTION

### Help community cats and all those in the shelter system by taking the following steps:

- Volunteer at your local shelter. Most animal care facilities truly need the assistance, especially during the typically low-adoption months of summer and high-intake months of kitten season. Better caretaker-to-animal ratios means each individual animal gets more attention, and that greatly improves their lives while in the shelter as well as their potential outcomes.
- Adopt a cat from a shelter or rescue. This will not only benefit that cat, but also make room in the shelter for another lost or abandoned cat.
- Foster a shelter or rescue kitty. Cats often become stressed in a shelter environment, and stressed cats can hide or hiss at people, making them less likely to be adopted. Fostering a cat will allow its true personality to shine and be captured in photos and cute videos that will attract adopters. Additionally, stress can weaken a cat’s immune system, causing them to get dangerous upper respiratory infections.
- Attend Town Hall and HOA meetings to protect community cats. Some people consider community cats a nuisance and worry about them spreading disease. They often air their grievances in these meetings. You can be a source of information to help them and the rest of the people who live in your community find solutions so that they and the cats can live in harmony. For a list of common complaints and how to handle them, visit [saveacat.org/common-complaints.html](http://saveacat.org/common-complaints.html).



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	African Wildcat Shoulder Tote Bag	\$10	S L			
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	Charcoal Zip-up Hoodie	\$35	S M L XL 2XL			
7	Single ACR Mask	\$8.50		White, Blue		
8	Two ACR Masks	\$15		White, Blue		
9	African Wildcat T-shirt	\$16	M L XL			
10	Canvas Tote	\$12		Black, Blue, Gray		
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 Rescue or provide your credit card information below.

Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

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

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

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

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

All donations are tax-deductible.

<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>
Sales Tax	+\$
<b>Shipping**</b>	<b>+7.00</b>
Donation	+\$
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