TNR WORKS!

Aalley Cat Rescue has advocated for TNR for years because we have always believed it to be the most humane and effective way to manage cat colonies. From the beginning we have faced opposition from those who demonize cats with fanatical claims of public health risks caused by cats or dramatized and overstated claims of cats’ impact on wildlife populations. Many of these cat haters argue that cats simply need to be eradicated.

However, after years of limited statistical data regarding outdoor cats, a raft of new science has been conducted in the last two years revealing that trying to “cull” (kill) cats out of existence is simply ineffective, and that TNR is the solution that works best for everyone -- the cats, the wildlife, and the frighty-cats who worry that increased outdoor cat populations pose a threat to human health.

Most recently, a comprehensive 10-year study of the impacts of a variety of management methods found that high-intensity TNR, in which 75% of intact cats in a population are sterilized, not only reduced the initial population by approximately half over time but also resulted in a staggering 31 times fewer preventable cat deaths over the 10 year period, compared to taking no action. The researchers looked at all ranges of cat management attempts including low-intensity TNR, removal programs, and culling programs and determined that high-intensity TNR was by far the most effective method of minimizing preventable cat and kitten deaths.

Just as importantly, the researchers determined that, “Culling is likely to be ineffective and inefficient in terms of cumulative preventable deaths and population size reduction.” In simple terms, the study says high-intensity TNR is more likely to reduce outdoor cat populations and to prevent unnecessary cat deaths. Surely this means TNR should be regarded as the best way to manage cats by all of us -- the cat lovers, the wildlife activists, and the public health worriers.

Continued on page 3...
ALLEY CAT RESCUE URGES CAT PEOPLE AND VETERINARIANS: SPAY FEMALE CATS AT 4 MONTHS OF AGE.

In 2014 Alley Cat Rescue joined Cats Protection in the United Kingdom by calling for “an urgent shift in pet owners’ thinking in order to control cat population”.

The U.K. charity urged owners to neuter their cats at four months of age — two months earlier than the traditional six months — because at four months female cats can reach sexual maturity.

The call follows a recent survey by the charity which found that just four per cent of people neutered their cat at or before the recommended four months.

“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, Cats Protection’s neutering manager.

In 1998 Bob Christiansen wrote a book, Save Our Strays, wherein he wrote that 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 one or two litters before they were spayed.**

Today some surveys also claim that 80 percent of cats are sterilized. We suspect that little has changed and that some of these now-spayed cats also have had a couple of litters of kittens before they were spayed.

New research shows that British and American cat owners harbor serious misconceptions about the reproductive habits of cats. The survey mentioned above found that 84 percent of the 715 people surveyed thought cats can’t get pregnant before the age of six months. This is simply **NOT TRUE!** Cats can get pregnant as young as four months old, ACR often has these “teenage” mothers in our care.

In the December 2013 issue of LiveScience, Douglas Marin wrote an article entitled **Ignorance About Cats’ Sex Lives Fuels Unplanned Pregnancies.**

Marin writes: “Cat owners could use a refresher on the “birds and the bees,” at least when it comes to their feline companions.”

Half of the respondents also said they thought female cats should have a litter before being spayed. Research shows that not only is this not the case, but in fact cats who have not had kittens are healthier.

**MISCONCEPTIONS**

In total, the female cats of one in eight of the respondents have given birth to unplanned litters.

According to LiveScience: “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 Veterinary Record. Due to these unplanned pregnancies, as many as 150,000 kittens end up in British shelters every year.”

Cat overpopulation is an even bigger problem in the U.S researchers said.

“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 more than half of them are euthanized, Levy told LiveScience. (New numbers show that almost one million cats are euthanized in shelters----this tragedy can be stopped if only people would neuter their cats.)

“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.

To help prevent unplanned litters, cat owners should get
their kittens spayed or neutered at 4 months of age, Levy said.

Cat overpopulation which includes thousands of unwanted kittens, strains animal shelters and most of these kittens, sadly, are killed every year.

Jane Murray an epidemiologist at the University of Bristol, co-author of the study says: “Spaying female cats can actually reduce the likelihood of ovarian cancer.” Neutering cats early enough helps fight cat overpopulation, which leads to cats being euthanized.

Please help Alley Cat Rescue get the message out to all. This can be the catalyst for ending the crisis in animal shelters. If we can stop the rush of unwanted kittens dumped at shelters every Spring and Summer, we can go a long way towards ending cat overpopulation!

Louise Holton, President & Founder
For the cats,
Recently 10 years after a court-ordered injunction halted the City of Los Angeles’ TNR program for community cats, there is renewed hope that it will return. In 2008, a legal challenge to the TNR program was filed against the City, and, in 2010, a permanent injunction was entered by the court that prohibited the City from engaging in TNR, or facilitating others to engage in TNR. The plaintiffs in this lawsuit were Urban Wildlands, American Bird Sanctuary, the LA Audubon, South Bay Audubon, and Santa Monica Audubon.

However, on August 28th, the City’s Bureau of Engineering published a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), which outlines a proposed Citywide Cat Program that would reinstate a citywide TNR program for Los Angeles. The Citywide Cat Program recommends a number of strategies that support TNR efforts as well as increases the quality of life among community cats. The Program suggests implementing a modified TNR program that establishes TNR as the preferred method of managing free-roaming cats, as well as making TNR the City’s official policy. One way the City would support this is by providing free or discounted spay or neuter coupons to offset the cost of the procedure for feral cats.

Additionally, the Program proposes a collaboration with TNR organizations and animal service centers to provide information and training to citizens who want to get involved with TNR. Increased outreach, such as providing links to TNR organizations on the LAAS website as well as referring the public to TNR organizations, is also proposed in order to raise awareness. Incentives, vouchers, and waived cat trap rentals will also be available to encourage citizens to participate in TNR efforts.

One important new initiative involves citizens with complaints about free-roaming cats. Under the proposed Program, complainants will be informed about the benefits of TNR and referred to TNR organizations. LAAS will encourage individuals to not bring feral cats into city shelters, provided that they are healthy, safe, and not a threat to people or companion animals. Anticipated results of this approach are a reduction in overcrowding at city shelters, as well as an advancement of the City’s no-kill policy through a decline in euthanasia rates.

The City of Los Angeles will also create a Working Cat Program to assist in the relocation of suitable, free-roaming cats. This program would give priority to cats trapped in or near environmentally sensitive areas, unsafe locations, or when it is not possible to return them to the location where they were trapped.

Ultimately, lifting the 10 year injunction prohibiting the City from engaging in TNR or helping facilitate others to engage in TNR would be advantageous not only to the community cat population in Los Angeles, but to the citizens of the city as well. The injunction has caused the feral kitten population in Los Angeles to reach a critical level, resulting in shelters being inundated with kittens and placing a strain on shelter resources. Making TNR more accessible and affordable for members of the community as well as promoting the many benefits of the TNR approach will likely increase participation in TNR efforts, decrease shelter overcrowding and euthanasia rates, as well as increase awareness among the public regarding community cats and why TNR is the most effective way in controlling cat populations.

Learn to TNR
SAVEACAT.ORG/TNR-STEP-BY-STEP

Find low-cost spay/neuter
SAVEACAT.ORG/STATE-LOW-COST-SPAYNEUTER

Connect with local TNR groups
SAVEACAT.ORG/STATE-RESOURCES
Surprisingly, the practice of declawing cats is still widely misunderstood among the American public. Much more than a simple nail trim, declawing involves a surgery that removes all or most of the last bone of each of the toes of the front paws, including tendons, nerves, and ligaments. Not only is this a painful and traumatic experience for cats, but it also has lasting negative effects on their quality of life. Declawing can cause cats to experience trouble scratching litter boxes or cleaning themselves, alter their posture, and in some cases, lead to permanent back pain.

Perhaps it is for these reasons that states are beginning to propose legislation that prohibit the practice of declawing. In the summer of 2019, Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York signed into law the first anti-declawing bill in the nation. This new law prohibits declawing unless for medical reasons, and vets who perform the surgery outside of legitimate bounds face fines of up to $1,000.

It seems that other states are not far behind. At the time of writing, an anti-declaw bill had passed New Jersey’s Assembly, and is waiting to be voted on in the Senate. Massachusetts proposed a ban on declawing in early 2019, and a hearing was held in July with a decision expected soon. Florida, Rhode Island, and West Virginia have all proposed similar anti-declawing bills that will hopefully be enacted into law soon.

Additionally, many cities have decided to take matters into their own hands. Eight cities in California alone – Los Angeles, San Francisco, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City – have all passed declaw bans. Outside the United States, numerous countries around the world have banned declawing. Canada, England, France, Germany, Spain, Australia, and many others have issued countrywide bans against the cruel process.

Help Save Cats’ Lives by Supporting Our Work

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
Phone: 301-277-5595
Email: acr@saveacat.org
Mail: P.O. Box 585, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712

Wills and Bequests
You can support our work for cats long into the future by including Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. in your estate plan. 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, Inc., having its principle office at 3906 Rhode Island Ave., Brentwood, MD 20712, for its general purpose to help stray, abandoned, and feral cats and kittens. Tax ID: 52-2279100.”
CALL TO ACTION

What You Can Do To Help Wildlife!

*Speak Up. Tell friends and family about the plight of wild animals everywhere. Don’t buy ivory or any jewelry made from animal parts. Wildlife trafficking is cruel and unnecessary.

*Pitch In To Help. Pick up trash in your neighborhood park. Get friends to get involved. Trash hurts birds and other wildlife.

*Recycle. Cut back on the resources you use and recycle everything. Recycle mobile phones. They are mined in the habitat that wild animals live in.

*Buy Less. We all buy too much stuff. Reuse old clothing and mend torn clothes.

*Restore. Plant native plants and trees for birds and bees and butterflies.

*Join Meatless Mondays. Cut back on eating animal products. Animal agriculture is very damaging to the earth and uses tremendous amounts of water. Meat production is inefficient. Beef requires 25 kilograms of grain for the animal, and 15,000 liters of water.

South African TNR project

Next issue will feature updates on our South African project. With our partners on the ground we have spayed and neutered over 600 feral cats to keep the African wildcat free from hybridization.

Visit the Action Center

Make a difference for cats by speaking out on the issues that affect them most. Our new online Action Center is the place to learn about legislation, petitions, and events affecting cats in your state and around the world. Visit www.SaveACat.org/Action-Center today and start making a difference with just a few clicks!
All Sales Help ACR Spay/Neuter Cats!

ORDER FORM

Name ___________________________________________ Order Total $________

Address ______________________________________________________________________

Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>SIZE (Please Circle)</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>African Wildcat T-shirt</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>M, L, XL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>African Wildcat shoulder bag</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>“Cat Face” T-shirt (white)</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>“Cat Face” T-shirt (grey)</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>S, M, XL, 3XL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Alley Cat Rescue v-neck black T-shirt</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>S, M, L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>“TNR is the cat’s meow” blue hooded sweatshirt</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>S, M, L, XL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ACR’s Guide to Managing Community Cats handbook</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tote Bag (navy, grey, black, and hunter green)</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>(Please circle color!)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Grocery Tote (white, green handles)</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make checks payable to: Alley Cat Rescue, Inc.

Maryland residents, please add 6% sales tax.

**There is a flat shipping rate of $7.00 for ALL purchases.
All donations are tax-deductible.

□ Visa □ MasterCard □ Discover □ American Express
Card Number ___________________________ CCV# ___________________________
Expiration Date ________________________ Signature _______________________

Mail completed form to Alley Cat Rescue, Inc., PO Box 585, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712. Thank you!
Meet the ACR Team!

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Louise Holton, President
Desirée Stapley, MS, RD
Marsha Dabolt, Outlaw Kitties
Peggy Hilden, Treasurer
Virginia Messina, MPH, RD
Susanna Delman, MPH

**ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**
Elizabeth Marshall Thomas
Verne Smith, Esq.
Roger Tabor, CBiol, FSB, MPhil, FCFBA, FBNAhc

**OUR DEDICATED STAFF**
Louise Holton, President & Founder
Desirée Stapley, Volunteer Director of Planning & Administration
Denise Hilton, Director of Operations
Sahar Khundmiri, Office Administrator
Rachel Buhner, Program Assistant
Dale Bartlett, Communications Specialist
Cheryl Noll, Volunteer Colony Caretaker
Drew Weidhaas, Volunteer S/N Programs (L.A.)
Tom Ragusa, Finance Associate
Cordelia Hyle, Communications Intern | George Menold, Legal Intern