



# 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.*

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## ALLEY CAT RESCUE SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Many conservationists and politicians use cat predation as a scapegoat for waning bird and other wildlife populations, perhaps to avoid focusing on the biggest threats to biodiversity, such as human expansion. Misinformation about cats has been making the rounds through popular magazines and news editorials for decades and most readers have no idea that it is based on terribly flawed logic and statistics. This is dangerous because it diverts attention away from the real killers of wildlife, and also makes millions of community and feral cats targets of unnecessary persecution.

When Alley Cat Rescue comes across articles and other publications that perpetuate cat predation hysteria, we do our best to correct the misinformation in a format that will be available to the same audience. Most of the time, we must rely on the columnist or editor to share our response. We feel that, even when they choose not to, it is important that they have been exposed to the information we've provided. Perhaps it will influence them to research the issues more deeply or decide against publishing similar articles in the future.

The following is a summary of just some of the published faulty claims against cats that we have countered.

The Times of San Diego printed an open letter by Nora Ives of the San Diego Audubon Society in which Ives criticizes the San Diego Humane Society's newly created

TNR program. Ives claims that "free-ranging domestic cats kill somewhere between 1 billion and 4 billion birds every year in the United States," and that releasing feral cats back to where they were trapped after they have been sterilized and vaccinated will harm local wildlife.

Alley Cat Rescue sent our own open letter in response, arguing that the number of birds cats may kill does not give a picture of the actual impact they have on bird

populations. To quote from our letter, "cats tend to hunt and feed on the most vulnerable prey. Sick, young, and old prey constitute the majority of a cat's kills. According to The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 'It is likely that most of the birds killed by cats would have died anyway from other causes before the next breeding season, so cats are unlikely to have a major impact on populations. If their predation was additional to these other causes of mortality, this might have a serious impact on bird populations.'"

In a Salon Magazine article titled "Trap-neuter-release' Programs for Feral Cats May Do More Harm Than Good, Experts Say," columnist Matthew Rozsa portrays TNR as a cruel practice that endangers wildlife and allows community cats to suffer short, difficult lives outdoors. We wrote a letter to the editor, explaining that Rozsa misrepresents and/or misunderstands TNR as simply trapping, fixing, and releasing cats to any random location and without



*Continued on page 4...*

## From the Desk of Louise Holton

ACR's latest *Cats in Crisis* report\* highlights the effect the Pandemic has had on spay/neuter surgeries over the last few years. Many clinics were faced with shorter hours, and many reduced their spay/neuter drastically, only taking animals that needed treatment or urgent care. As we mention in the report, a study found a decrease of 80% in surgeries. As we try to recover, it is still difficult for some to get appointments at vet clinics. The wait time often is long, and in the meantime, cats keep reproducing.

Shelter intake numbers for cats have increased. *Veterinarians.org* analyzed shelter data and listed the top states with the highest kill rates. They are Texas, California, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

The good news is, New Hampshire and Delaware are listed as No Kill and 15 other states have achieved a 90% save rate. A No Kill community has to work together to achieve this ideal. Shelters, community cat groups, kitten nurseries, and adoption groups have to work together. We also have to get individuals in the community to help.

Most groups are all-volunteer and get overwhelmed with calls for help. If someone finds kittens in their backyard, they should borrow traps and TNR the colony. ACR has resources on our website listing Cat Action Teams (CATs) that can provide people with equipment such as traps, plus we have state-by-state lists of low-cost clinics throughout the country.



We also work with several U.S. groups and help fund their TNR clinics. We have a global reach through our annual Feral Fix Challenge, in which we invite veterinarians from around the world to join us in sterilizing outdoor cats.

*Louise*

Louise Holton  
President/Founder

*\*A link to the report can be found on our home page, [www.saveacat.org](http://www.saveacat.org).*

## HELP US BUY A NEW CATMOBILE!

We transport cats to and from veterinary clinics in Maryland for TNR and urgent medical treatment almost every day. Our current van is on its last legs and we really must get a new one soon! Please consider donating toward this essential purchase!

Donate at [www.gofundme.com/f/VanForACR](http://www.gofundme.com/f/VanForACR)





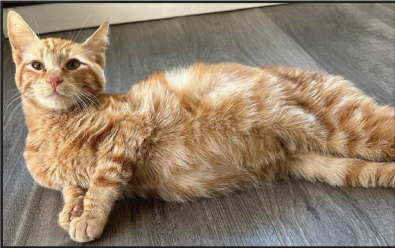
# RESCUE STORIES



Zora

**Zora & kittens** - Zora and her five kittens were dumped at the shelter. Unvaccinated kittens with immature immune systems are at high risk for illness and disease. We rescued them and treated them all for illness and parasites. Malnourished mamma cat was provided with high-quality

nutritious food. The kittens have grown and doubled in weight in foster care. Sadly, the smallest of the litter failed to thrive despite intensive veterinary care. Once the kittens were weaned, we spayed Zora and got her a full check up and dentistry for her several broken teeth with exposed roots.



James

**James** - Alley Cat Rescue answered an urgent plea for the rescue of four-month-old James, who was diagnosed with wet Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP). FIP is always

fatal unless treated with expensive daily antiviral injections.

We have successfully treated FIP kittens before, and rushed to rescue him and start him on the medication immediately. He was in very poor condition with a high fever, difficulty walking, and an enormously swollen belly filled with fluid. The first few weeks were very scary and rough. James was not improving and needed to have the fluid in his belly drained. After another two weeks of medication, thankfully, James began to improve. The fluids were absorbed, and he was able to breathe better and started eating more. He still had difficulty walking, and this was attributed to neurological FIP so he was put on a higher dosage of medication and his treatment was extended by another 30 days.



Bandit

**Bandit** - Senior cutie, Bandit, has been in our foster program for almost a year. It is difficult enough to find adopters for older cats, but Bandit also requires daily medication (phenobarbital) to prevent him

from having seizures. He is a sweet, deserving boy and we are sure that there is someone who will see him as perfect and adopt him soon.



Sapphire

**Sapphire & kittens** - Sapphire is a beautiful purebred Burmese, but she came as a stray to ACR very malnourished.

Her body is giving

all its nutrients to her six nursing kittens, and it has taken a toll on her health. Mamma and her kittens were also suffering from a coccidia infection, which causes dangerous, severe diarrhea. We started them on medication right away and thankfully, everyone recovered. If we had not found them in time, it is likely the babies would have died. Throughout the ordeal, Sapphire diligently cleaned and protected the kittens as best she could.



Trixie

**Trixie** - Trixie is a young, incredibly affectionate cat. She developed a bad upper respiratory infection while in a high-kill county shelter. Alley Cat Rescue saved her from being euthanized and moved her into our foster program. Trixie recovered from the most dangerous stage of the infection after a couple of weeks but continued to have bouts

of severe congestion that multiple antibiotics did not clear. After extensive blood work and a trip to a dental specialist, Trixie was diagnosed with stomatitis. Trixie needed all of her teeth extracted to relieve the pain in her mouth, but she recovered quickly. She still has some congestion, which may be chronic. Either way, ACR will keep her safe and comfortable and find her the best possible home.

**Flower & kittens** - A feral mama cat stashed her four week-old babies in a large planter pot to keep them safe. Unfortunately, the pot was in the backyard of a home with large dogs, who were scaring her and posing a threat to the kittens. The home owners contacted ACR and asked us to assist with the babies. We rescued the little kittens, trapped the mama, and moved everyone to an indoor enclosure so she could continue to raise and

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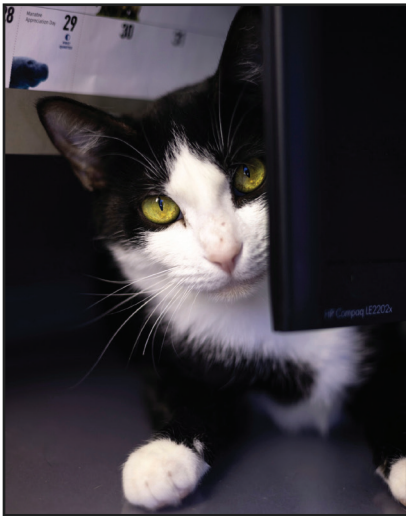
# ALLEY CAT RESCUE SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT

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any follow up care such as feeding, providing water, and monitoring for illness and injury. In our letter, we explained the details of proper TNR projects, which keep outdoor cats healthy. We wrote, “Per a 2019 survey ACR conducted of organizations and individuals who care for feral cats, more than 24 percent of the 218 respondents reported having feral cats in their groups who were 13 years or older.”

We also brought up the lack of relevant studies on the effects of cat predation.

Alley Cat Rescue was contacted by a representative of residents of Mount Edgecombe Country Club Estate with a plea for assistance in opposing the Estate board’s plan to cull the feral cats living on the property. The board had hired an “expert” to create a report that details why the cats are a danger to the local wildlife and therefore need to be eradicated. We found that



the expert’s report made many false claims, not only regarding cats’ net effect on wildlife, but also about the effectiveness of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). The report even said that no studies have shown TNR to be an effective form of population management.

Our letter to the board included two detailed summaries of TNR studies, one done in California and one in Illinois, that resulted in a significant decrease in cat colony populations over time. We also tackled a third claim from the report, namely that allowing cats to roam outdoors significantly increased community members’ risk of contracting toxoplasmosis, a parasitic infection. Our letter corrected this by laying out the facts about the disease - that raw meat (especially pork) is the primary mode of transmission of the parasite to humans; that as many as one third of people in the world have the parasite in their system, yet few people get sick from it; and that it is really quite difficult to get infected from a cat.

## References

“How Many Birds Do Cats Kill? UK Bird Declines.” *The RSPB*, [www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/animal-deterrents/cats-and-garden-birds/are-cats-causing-bird-declines](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/animal-deterrents/cats-and-garden-birds/are-cats-causing-bird-declines).

Rozsa, Matthew. “‘Trap-neuter-release’ Programs for Feral Cats May Do More Harm Than Good, Experts Say.” *Salon*, 20 Dec. 2022, [www.salon.com/2022/12/20/trap-neuter-release-programs-for-feral-cats-may-do-more-harm-than-good-experts-say](http://www.salon.com/2022/12/20/trap-neuter-release-programs-for-feral-cats-may-do-more-harm-than-good-experts-say).

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## RESCUE STORIES

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nurse the kittens.

One of the four kittens was smaller than the others and failed to thrive. He passed away despite the best efforts of his mama and caretakers. Then we noticed the other kittens were not growing as steadily as they should be and intervened with bottle feeding and vigilant monitoring. As she is feral, Flower was stressed by all the activity so we had her spayed and returned her to her backyard home.

The kittens have all stabilized and grown wonderfully from bottle babies. It has been an emotional rollercoaster with these babies, but worth it as always!



Flower & kittens



# TNR PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE NATION

Community cat overpopulation is everywhere. All cats need and deserve some level of human care to live full, comfortable lives. Alley Cat Rescue volunteers directly manage multiple colonies and do TNR at many locations in Maryland and California. To maximize our impact, we partner with TNR projects in other states where shelter euthanasia numbers are highest.



*Trapping Cats in Roanoke VA*

We work with nonprofit organizations with proven track records, whose missions align with our own. We love hearing about and seeing the positive impact we

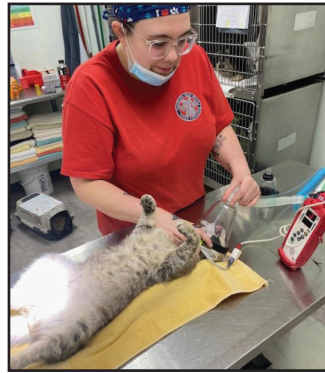
are able to have for cats in these programs.

In 2022, we partnered with groups in Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. This year, we are working with groups in Louisiana, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia. We look forward to helping even more cats across the U.S. with

our 2023 Feral Fix Challenge, which is well underway!

Trap-Neuter-Return remains one of the most important programs to combat cat overpopulation. This program tackles the root of the issue, stopping kittens from being born on the streets and ending up in shelters. Shelters are unable to provide proper care for these babies and they are often given a few hours before euthanasia.

Research has shown that community cats in stable colonies live happy, long lives.



*Feral Cat Being Prepared for Surgery in NC*



*Feral cats awaiting surgery in Boise, ID*

## 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  
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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 continue to 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."

### Stock Donations

Donating stocks offers great benefits; not only are stock donations income tax-deductible, they also enable donors to save on capital gains taxes. To request a Stock Donation Form, Email [debbie@saveacat.org](mailto:debbie@saveacat.org) or download it from our website at [saveacat.org/donate.html](http://saveacat.org/donate.html).



# CALLS TO ACTION

## ASK YOUR VET TO JOIN THE 2023 FERAL FIX CHALLENGE!



The Global Feral Fix Challenge is an annual initiative to save lives and promote the spaying and neutering of community cats. Alley Cat Rescue is calling on the veterinary community to provide free or low-cost spay and neuter surgery for as many cats as possible in 2023.

Veterinarians are encouraged to work in collaboration with local animal rescuers and trap-neuter-return (TNR) groups to identify and assist cats in need of sterilization.

Approximately 3.2 million cats enter U.S. shelters each year, but *nearly 1 million of them won't make it out alive*. When kitten season reaches its peak during the summer months, shelters quickly become overwhelmed by the high numbers of kittens pouring in – 80% of whom are found outdoors, born from unsterilized, free-roaming cats. This is the primary reason why *around 1,000 healthy, adoptable cats are euthanized each day in our country's shelters*.

**Get your cat's vet involved!** Send their name and Email address to [debbie@saveacat.org](mailto:debbie@saveacat.org) and we will send them an invitation to join the Challenge! All veterinarians are eligible to participate.

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## FOSTERING KITTENS SAVES LIVES!



Each spring and summer, shelters overflow with orphaned kittens. This year, because spay/neuter procedures were largely halted during lockdowns, the overcrowding is even worse than usual.

Orphan kittens under eight weeks old need a level of care that shelters can't provide. The **ONLY** chance these kittens have is through foster care. Shelters do their best to reach out to rescues and individual volunteers. Kittens for whom they cannot find a rescue or foster are

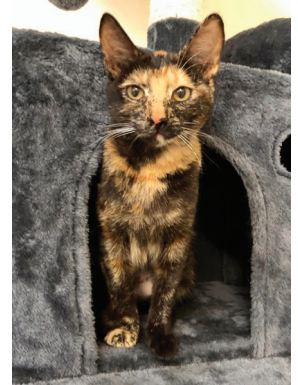
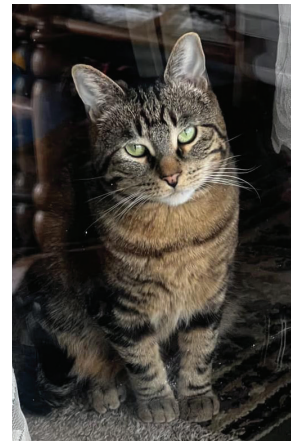
euthanized within hours.

Rescues pull kittens out of the shelters, but even rescues can only pull as many as they themselves have foster commitments for. In the end, *thousands* of lives that had just begun are tragically lost.

TNR is the long term solution for this crisis, but these kittens need help *right now*! If you have the ability to foster a kitten, you will save her life and increase the chances of other lives being saved. It is a lot of work, but only for a few weeks and the experience is so rewarding!!

You can read up on how to care for young kittens on our website: [saveacat.org/orphaned-kittens.html](http://saveacat.org/orphaned-kittens.html)

If you are ready to be a kitten's HERO, please contact your local shelter, or a rescue / TNR group near you - visit our website for a list of organizations ("CAT" groups) by state and county.







These items and MORE can also be purchased through our online store:  
<http://www.saveacat.org/store.html>

## ORDER FORM

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

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#	ITEM	PRICE	SIZE (Please Circle)	COLOR (Please Circle)	# OF ITEMS	\$ TOTAL
1	Black V-neck T-shirt	\$20	S M L XL 2XL			
2	African Wildcat Shoulder Tote Bag	\$10	S L			
3	Smoke Gray ACR Cat Silhouette Long Sleeved Shirt	\$30	S M L XL 2XL			
4	ACR Cat Silhouette T-Shirt	\$22	S M L XL 2XL	lilac, teal, white, storm		
5	Blue ACR Bracelet	\$10	S M L			
6	African Wildcat Bracelet	\$10	S M L			
7	African Wildcat T-shirt	\$13	M L XL			
8	NEW! Sneaky Cat Tote Bag	\$15				
9	NEW! Sneaky Cat T-shirt	\$22	M L XL	lilac, teal, storm		
10	Cat Rescue's Guide to Managing Community Cats Paperback	\$6				

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

Sales Tax: 6% for Maryland residents. 9.5% for California residents.  
 NO SALES TAX FOR ALL OTHER STATES.

\*\*Flat shipping rate of \$5.99 on ALL items.

All donations are tax-deductible.

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Sales Tax	+\$
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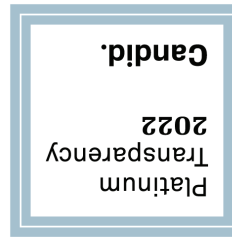
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