



ALLEY CAT RESCUE

AN ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION WWW.SAVEACAT.ORG

Veterinarians are the key to getting control of the feral cat population

Every year for the past 7 years, Alley Cat Rescue (ACR) has hosted an annual Feral Cat Spay Day to encourage the veterinary community and the public to end cat overpopulation and to decrease shelter euthanasia rates by practicing trap-neuter-return (TNR).

TNR is the humane management of community cats, where cats are caught in humane traps, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped and returned to their homes. Friendly kittens and cats who can be socialized are placed into adoption programs to find homes (an immediate reduction in outdoor cat populations) while those who are truly wild are returned to their outdoor homes. A feral cat is simply a domestic cat who was born outside and has never lived with humans, or a lost or abandoned cat who had little or no human contact. Cats easily revert back to living on instincts and become less dependent on humans for survival. Feral simply means “wild” or “untamed.”

Cat rescue organizations cannot tackle this problem alone; we need the support of the veterinary community. By establishing long-term relationships between vets and rescuers, together we can help each town’s stray cat population.

ACR started our annual Feral Cat Spay Day in 2009. Since then 900 veterinarians have participated spaying and neutering 26,035 cats. Four countries have joined us! You can do the math on how many unwanted kittens were saved, as cats usually have 2 litters of 4 kittens each year and although around 50% of the kittens don’t make it, the others go on to having litters as soon as they are old enough.



Squeeky was rejected by his mama and raised by another mother cat, Sophie.

**If anyone is interested in helping community cats,
please join us on this very important day!!**

For more information on Feral Cat Spay Day (or the May Spay Challenge) and how you can get involved, please visit www.saveacat.org or email Denise Hilton at dhilton@saveacat.org.

Message from ACR President, Louise Holton

Do people ask you why you support animals when so many humans need help? I know many have asked me this over the years. Firstly we are a humane society, and animals need our help too. Secondly, I point out to them that the lion's share of donations given goes towards human endeavors, with only a fraction going towards helping animals.

Here is a breakdown in percentages:

Religion	31%	Health	10%
Education	16%	Public benefit	7%
Human services	12%	Arts and culture	5%
Foundations	11%	International Affairs	4%

Which means the Environment and Animals together get only 4%

And most of the 4% goes to environmental groups. So you can see animals get very little and groups like ACR are left with just a few loyal and dedicated supporters who fortunately keep giving to us to help make life better for cats everywhere.

Another problem for groups like ACR is that we support humane nonlethal treatment for feral cats, which means we have all the environmental groups working against us.

A new book has just been published which encourages people to kill feral cats "by any means necessary." The author claims that outdoor cats must be eradicated in the name of biodiversity and public health.

Why I call this "A Dangerous Game"

One has only to look at the history of eradicating cats from small islands (**NOT CONTINENTS**) to see:

- (1) It took many years (19 years in one case)
- (2) They had to use several methods of control including dangerous poisons that killed birds and other wildlife
- (3) After removing cats the rodents and rabbits took over and destroyed the environment, putting at risk the very animals they were trying to "save".

The anti-cat folks leave out this information when they suggest "getting rid of all cats." The methods used to eliminate cats on islands are ones that will be quite unacceptable to the humane society in the United States. Terrestrial ecologist Dr. Dana Bergstrom said of Macquarie Island when cats were eradicated that the program, while well-intentioned, resulted in widespread ecosystem devastation when the rabbit numbers exploded. In Conservation Biology in April 2004 it was reported that: "The main methods used in eradication campaigns have been (1) trapping, (2) hunting (with dogs, rifles, and guns), (3) poisoning (in fish baits), and (4) disease introduction (mainly virus)."



At Alley Cat Rescue (ACR) this has always been our argument. Using eradication programs is short-sighted and a quick-fix. It is NOT a long-term solution. A better way to control cats is achieved through sterilization, stopping the breeding, and allowing for a slow attrition through natural causes, and allowing the prey animals to adjust.

For the cats,



Louise Holton, President and Founder

CALL TO ACTION

We have been fighting this fight for over 26 years, but the environmental groups are unrelenting.
HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you get their mailings asking for your financial support, write back and tell them you will only send them donations when they support nonlethal control for feral cats, and stop scapegoating cats. The main reason for the loss of wildlife and birds is habitat loss and humans encroaching on the land, leaving little for wildlife. Money does talk. If empathy does not work, let's not send them any money and LET THEM KNOW WHY.

Some of the gorgeous kittens your donations helped save this summer!



Brioche

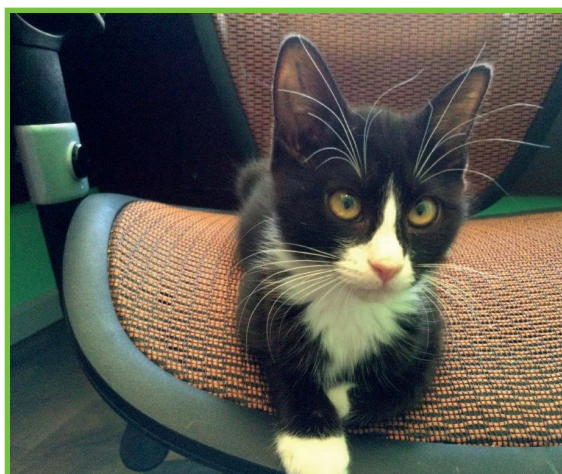
Little lives that would have been lost if you had not stepped up to help!



Madeline, Croissant, and Palmier



Jon Snow (adopted)



Palmier



Madeline (adopted)

Results from ACR's latest survey of community cat groups

Surveys show that there are 85.8 million cats in American homes. They also show that 81% believe that community cats should be left in their outdoor homes. Twelve percent of Americans feed outdoor cats. Bonds between humans and cats are very strong. The outdoor cat community are extremely attached to the outdoor cats they feed, and find it morally unacceptable to use lethal control. As evident in Alley Cat Rescue's 2016 Feral Cat Survey, more animal control agencies and local governments are supporting TNR efforts for managing outdoor cats in their communities, while rescue organizations are improving the lives of outdoor cats by providing sterilization services and vaccinations.

In 2016, 77% of rescue groups reported that their local animal control agency approves of TNR for feral cats, that's a 40% increase from the number of groups that said animal control approves of TNR as reported on the 2012 Feral Cat Survey. In comparing the two surveys, there's also a 16% increase in the number of rescue groups reporting their working relationship with animal control agencies as being "easy" or "intermediate," which leads us to believe there is a significant shift toward accepting TNR in the animal control field.

There has been similar progress with the relationships between feral cat groups and local governments. In comparing the results from 2012 to 2016, there has been a 22% decrease in feral cat rescues finding it "difficult" to work with local policymakers. However, despite these reformed relationships, most local county-run shelters and animal control agencies do not provide TNR services to their communities, with 62% of respondents saying their local animal control does not currently offer programs to assist feral cats.

Other significant findings from the survey reveal that the majority of rescues are comprised of a small handful of core staff with a larger support system of volunteers and foster families. Most of these rescues are managing multiple colonies, with 57% caring for 1-5 colonies and 21% caring for 6-10 colonies. The average size of these colonies tends to consist of around 5-10 cats, with 37% of groups caring for colonies of 11-20 cats. When comparing the results from ACR's 2012 Survey, there has been a significant decrease in the average size of the colonies these rescues are caring for, which coincides with the reported decrease in the number of kittens present before TNR and the number born in these colonies after TNR has been implemented.

Rescue organizations are also improving the lives of feral cats by not only eliminating the health concerns that accompany constant reproduction, but by offering

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Miss Foxy (top), orphan kittens (bottom)

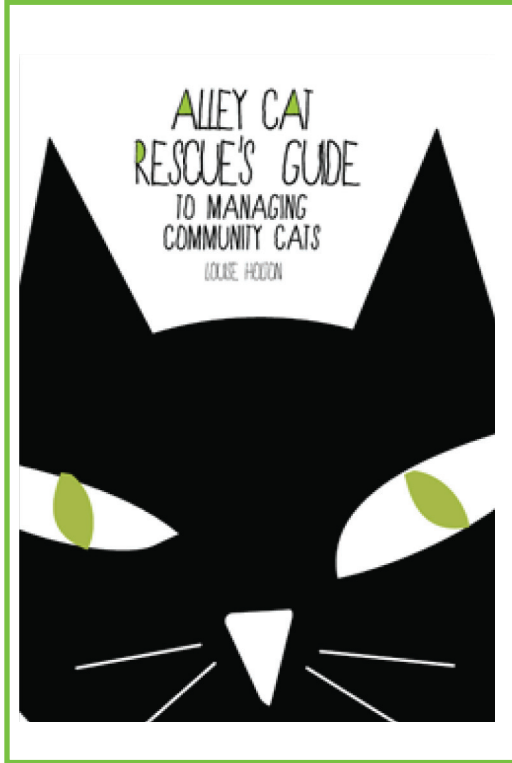
Photos by Katharine Brainard

Support TNR
Programs!

www.SaveACat.org/donate

Call to Action:

Build a Community of Compassionate Vets



Back in 2009, we launched Feral Cat Spay Day (FCSD) to encourage the veterinary community to offer free and low-cost Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) services to those who care for community cats. In the past five years, roughly 900 veterinary hospitals across the world have spayed or neutered over 26,035 community cats in honor of this day! In order to ramp up these efforts and aid more cats in need, this year we challenged veterinarians to provide affordable TNR services throughout the entire month; hence the May Spay Challenge was borne!

Make a positive impact for cats in your community!

Buy our Guide to *Managing Community Cats* and donate it to vets, animal shelters, and policymakers in your area. Our guide has all the tips, tricks, and tools needed to help any compassionate person save more cats.

This new campaign is a month-long initiative created to encourage veterinarians to provide free or low-cost sterilization for community cats, by pledging to spay or neuter at least one community cat each week for the month of May. Veterinarians were encouraged to work in collaboration with local animal rescuers to identify and assist cats in need of sterilization.

Over 1.4 million cats enter U.S. shelters each year, but tragically, only 3 in 10 will make it out alive. Springtime notoriously signals the start of kitten season and the month of May marks the highest intake of kittens for most shelters. The majority of kittens entering shelters are those found outdoors, born from unsterilized, free-roaming cats, therefore, we challenged veterinarians to help us 'fix' this annual kitten invasion.

Make a greater impact in your community! Simply fill out the form below and return it using the enclosed envelope. We'll take care of the rest!

Please send an invitation letter to my local veterinarian clinic to join the May Spay Challenge in 2017.

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



We are so pleased to welcome Maria Wallace to our team! Maria has 18 years of experience in veterinary hospitals. Maria has a degree in biology, minor in chemistry, focus bio-chem and population genetics and is currently busy with her MBA in health care admin. Maria has been accepted to 2 veterinary schools, and plans to make vet. medicine her career. We are hoping she will stay with ACR after she obtains her final degree, to help us run our Spay Clinic. She is working at ACR as a Project Manager and Animal Care Administrator.



Meet Our Team

THE DEDICATED STAFF OF ALLEY CAT RESCUE

Louise Holton, *President and Newsletter Editor*
 Denise Hilton, *Director of Operations*
 Svetlana Durkovic, *Development Manager*
 Maria Wallace, *Project Manager and Animal Care Administrator*
 Tom Ragusa, *Finance Associate*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

ADVISORY BOARD MEMERBS

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

Mission Statement:

Alley Cat Rescue's (ACR) commitment is to help stray and outdoor community cats in the United States and around the world, by promoting humane nonlethal care to improve cats' lives. ACR works to reduce the number of feral cats living in colonies through a proven method called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

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, 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."



Donate a car for cats!

Trips to colonies each day, vet visits, and monthly drives to our Cheap Fix Cat Clinic are hard on the ACR cars, and tend to send them to an early retirement. If you're ready to upgrade, donate your used car, truck, or van to Alley Cat Rescue! You'll get a tax deduction AND peace of mind that your old car has a second life helping to save cats' lives.

Call 301-277-5595 for more information.

Advocate for community cats everywhere you go!

Spark great conversation while on-the-go with ACR gear!
 Visit our online store at SaveACat.org/shop for a complete list of merchandise. All sales benefit community cats.



ACR's "How-To" Guide • \$10.99

"This is the purrfect, comprehensive resource for anyone interested in helping homeless cats. I wish I'd had it when I started caring for my colony twenty-one years ago." - Amazon Review



Grocery Tote Bag • \$8

Save plastic & trees with our eco-friendly shopping bag.



Metal Water Bottle • \$8

Save plastic & help birds when you order our reusable water bottle.



Grey or White "Cat Face" T-shirt • \$16 each

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL. Show your support for cats!

ORDER FORM

cut along dotted line

Name _____ Order Total \$ _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

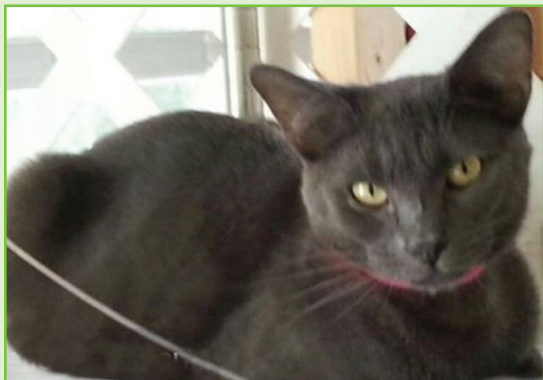
ITEM	PRICE	SIZE (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)	No. of Items	Total
ACR's Guide to Managing Community Cats (book)	\$10.99	N/A		\$
Cat Face T-shirt (grey)	\$16			\$
Cat Face T-shirt (white)	\$16			\$
Grocery Bag (white)	\$8	N/A		\$
Water Bottle (teal)	\$8	N/A		\$
			Sub total	\$
<i>*Maryland residents ONLY please remember to add the appropriate sales tax.</i>			Sales tax (6%)*	+ \$
<i>**There is a flat shipping rate of \$7.00 for ALL purchases.</i>			Shipping**	+ \$7.00
<i>All donations are tax-deductible.</i>			Donation	+ \$
Please send checks made out to Alley Cat Rescue or provide your credit card information below.			Total	\$

Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

RETURN COMPLETED ORDER FORM TO ALLEY CAT RESCUE, PO BOX 585, MT RAINIER, MD 20712.



.....ACR's latest survey...
continued

protection against diseases such as rabies, distemper, and leukemia. Ninety-three percent of respondents inoculate feral cats against rabies and only a small portion of cats test positive for either feline leukemia or feline immunodeficiency virus. In addition, these rescues are assisting a large number of senior cats, with 94% of respondents saying they care for cats who are 6 years and older. Rescue groups are also providing spay and neuter services to owned cats, with 74% responding that they sterilize pet cats as well as feral cats.

Animal control agencies and local governments, along with the American public, are supporting TNR programs because they effectively reduce the number of cats living outdoors and they are humane. Over 1.4 million cats enter U.S shelters each year, with 7 in 10 being killed. A large portion of the cats who are destroyed in our shelter system are adult feral cats and kittens born to unsterilized free-roaming cats. Local policymakers are realizing these rescues are providing a vital public service which results in reduced pressure on local shelter resources and decreased euthanasia rates. It's encouraging to see the continued enhancement of relationships between feral cat groups, animal control, and local policy makers, however, more improvement is still needed in making affordable spay and neuter and Trap-Neuter-Return services available to the Public.



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

