



ALLEY CAT RESCUE

ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION

301-277-5595 • SaveACat.org • P.O. Box 585. Mt. Rainier, MD 20712



Fighting for the Rights of Cats

Cats have been used as scapegoats for centuries. Just as thousands of cats were killed during Medieval Times because of the terrible witch-hunts, much of the modern-day “war” on cats is once again related to a frenzy of misinformation. This time around it is predominantly driven by otherwise-intelligent scientists and biologists hand-wringing over predation. Some in the scientific community are even labeling cats as “non-native,” “alien,” and “exotic,” which all translate into eradicate.

In the book *Rat Island* (2011), William Stolzenburg writes about the use of this terminology saying, “the warriors come armed with their own emotional terminology. Alien, plague, invader—these are the tags of the conservation community’s own choosing, affixed to the creatures they are compelled to kill.”

In private conversations I have had with some American environmentalists and biologists, including one of the world’s foremost experts on migratory birds, many do acknowledge the bias against cats. Unfortunately, they are so far unwilling to go against their peers in defense of the cat.

Quotes from unbiased experts regarding birds:

“The global environmental crisis has caught up with migratory birds. There are simply too many people making ever increasing demands on a fixed supply of resources. It is inconceivable that we can continue on the same reckless path for very long.”

— John Terborgh, *Why American Songbirds are Vanishing* (1992)

“Human-related factors threaten 99 percent of the most imperiled bird species, and bird extinctions already far exceed the natural rate of loss. At least 128 species have vanished over the past 500 years, 103 of them since 1800.”

— Worldwatch Institute, *Winged Messengers* (2001)

“Culling perpetuates the problem. Current methods of competitor control do not aim at eradication ... they aim at ‘sustained control.’ They are therefore not only cruel—they actually guarantee the continuation of the problem, if indeed there is a problem. Lethal competitor animal control methods are about the temporary concealment of problems... instead of addressing the real causes of environmental and ecological degradation.”

— Frankie Seymour, Australian ecologist

(Cont.)

A book titled, *The Domestic Cat: The Biology of Its Behaviour* (2000), resulted from a symposium on cats at the University of Zurich over two decades ago. Scientists at the symposium presented either their own findings or represented peer findings. The results consisted of cat predation studies conducted on 31 islands and 4 continents. Their conclusion? “Any bird populations on the continents that could not withstand these levels of predation from cats and other predators would have disappeared long ago.”

Cats are Rodent Specialists

Cats are carnivores, equipped with highly developed senses, sharp teeth and claws. They are supreme predators who have erroneously been given a reputation for wanton slaughter, especially of birds. However, scientific evidence shows that cats mostly prey on small mammals, such as rodents, and scavenge on trash and carrion.

Cats who rely solely on hunting for food spend much of their time performing the act of “searching” for food and then stalking it. They usually have to wait for hours for potential prey to come by and often are unsuccessful at making a kill.

Many zoologists have observed cats as scavengers, hanging out next to dumpsters to wait for a hand out. Peter Neville, an animal behaviorist and author of many books on cats, worked in England for two decades with feral cat colonies. Neville has said that, “a deliberate strategy of scavenging has enabled many feral cats almost to give up hunting altogether. They may learn instead to lie around waste bins of hotels for fresh supplies or to cadge from well-meaning human providers in urban areas.” This begging and opportunistic behavior started with the domestication of the cat 10,000 to 12,000 years ago.

Zoologist Paul Leyhausen considered the domestic cat to be a rodent specialist, because its preferred sit-and-wait hunting strategy is much better suited to catching mice and young rabbits. Cats will wait for hours outside burrows for these animals to come out. It requires less time and energy for a cat to stalk and kill small mammals than birds, who can fly in any direction and are more difficult to catch.

In her 2001 book, *Maverick Cats*, author Ellen Perry Berkeley examines almost 50 years of studies conducted on the stomach and fecal content of feral and rural cats. One study (performed in New Zealand) shows that mammals account for 93% of a cat’s consumed food and birds only 4.5%. In a similar study, Australian biologists Brian Coman and Hans Brunner concluded that mammals made up 88% of a cat’s diet and birds 5.2%. They reported: “The common belief that feral cats are serious predators of birds is apparently without basis. Although birds were common in all sampling areas, they were a relatively minor item in the diet.”

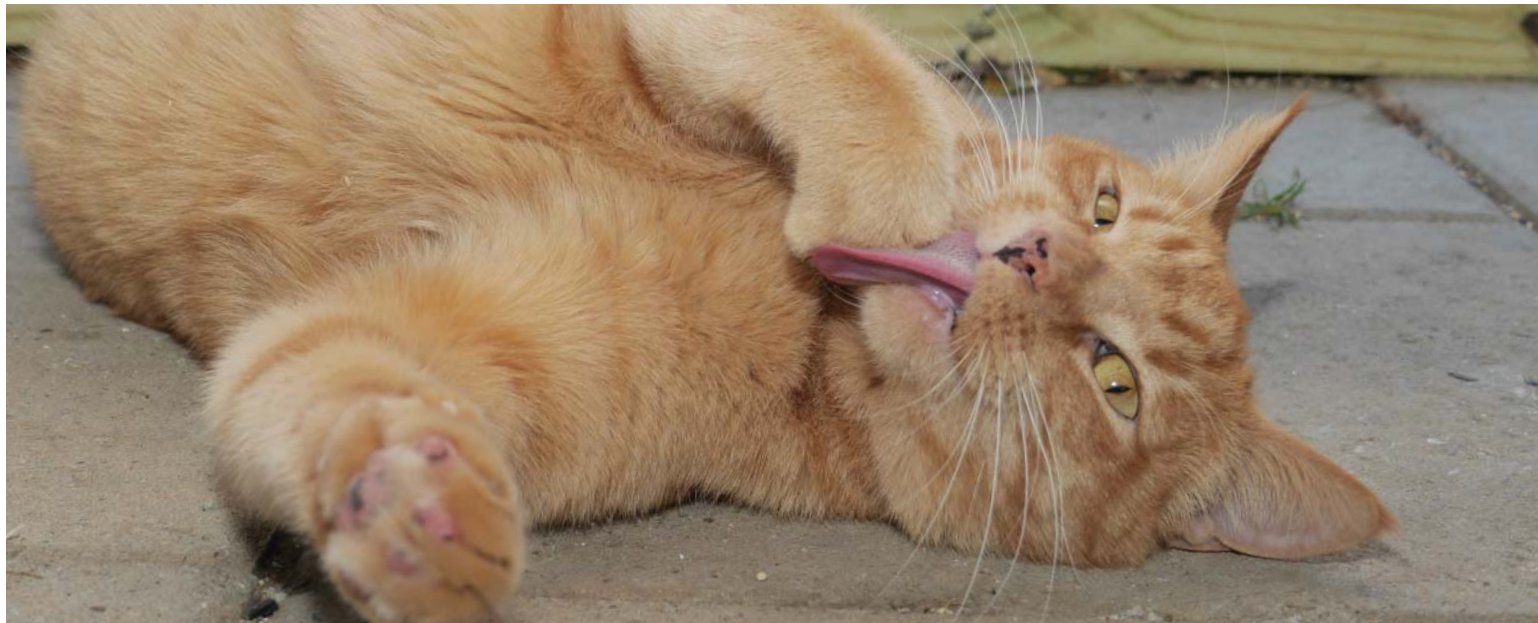


Louise Holton, President & Founder



Predation of Birds & Other Animals is Natural

Predators usually kill sickly, very young, or old animals—they are easier to catch—which keeps populations healthy. Recent research in France compared the health of birds killed by cats with the health of birds killed in accidents such as flying into windows. They found that the birds killed by cats were weak or infirm and had smaller spleens, an indicator of disease or parasite infestations. This supports what biologists who have studied cat predation have been saying for years: most birds caught by cats are a “doomed surplus,” often in poor health, and would have died anyway. Most healthy birds will escape from the clutches of cats and go on to develop skills at avoiding feline predation in the future. They pass along these skills to their offspring. This is the wonderful, ingenious way that nature helps animals to thrive and survive. Charles Darwin referred to this as the “survival of the fittest.”



Declawing: Legislative Actions to End a Cruel Practice

By Brianna Grant

Years ago, declawing a cat may have been considered a routine veterinary procedure but advocacy groups, such as Alley Cat Rescue, have always fought against this perception and for stronger laws against the practice. Although slowly, legislative changes have begun in the United States to ban this cruel procedure and offer protection for cats.

While 20 countries and the UK currently ban declawing, it is not banned federally or at the state level in the United States. Cities such as Hollywood, CA, Santa Monica, CA and Norfolk, VA have bans on declawing in place, and New York, New Jersey, and Hawaii have seen statewide bills banning declawing proposed in the past few years. California and Rhode Island have passed laws that ban landlords from requiring tenants to have their animals declawed or devocalized. These bills are positive steps towards full statewide bans of the cruel practice, but there's still much work to be done.

ACR saw firsthand the devastating effects of declawing. If you keep up with our social media and emails, you have undoubtedly been touched by Hardy's story. Hardy is a cat ACR saved from a local shelter after he had suffered from extreme cruelty and mutilation. Hardy's limbs and tail were tied and bound for weeks, which ultimately lead to the necessary removal of the digits of his toes by our veterinarian, similar to a declawing procedure where the last bone in each toe is removed.

After performing the surgery, our doctor stated that Hardy will likely suffer many of the same health issues endured by declawed cats such as arthritis, pain in his paws, and litter box aversion. Not to mention, scratching (and stretching) are natural instincts for cats. When they are prevented from engaging in these behaviors—they physically can no longer scratch and/or it's too painful—cats tend to develop frustrations and act out in destructive ways.

There is a growing number of veterinarians and veterinary groups that oppose declawing. The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association opposes the practice and has supported anti-declawing bills. Please join the growing number of cat guardians and veterinary professionals and refuse to declaw your cats!

You can help your state enact a ban on this practice by contacting your state legislators today and encouraging them to introduce anti-declawing bills. If you live in California, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, or West Virginia, your legislature has already introduced a bill to ban declawing. To ensure that these bills keep their traction, please reach out to your state legislators and tell them how strongly you support these bills.

Cats and Coffee

•A Purrfect Pair•

By Maggie Funkhouser

The hottest fad right now in the cat world is cat cafés, and if you haven't heard of these trendy shops, then you must be living under a rock because they are quickly popping up all across the United States. What started as tourist attractions in Taiwan and Japan, have now become successful models of adopting cats into forever homes.

The first cat café opened its doors in 1998 in Taiwan, with others quickly bursting onto the scene in neighboring Japan. Most people in these countries live in apartments and condos where companion animals are not permitted. So the original idea behind cat cafés was to provide animal-loving people the opportunity to visit their local coffee shop and enjoy the company of cats. Word spread about these one-of-a-kind cafés and they soon became tourist attractions, bringing in travelers from all over the world.

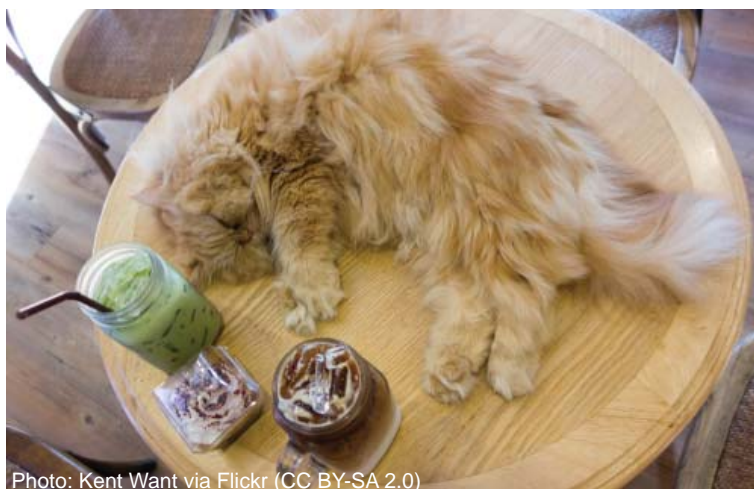


Photo: Kent Want via Flickr (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Unlike these first cat cafés, which offered patrons snuggles with specific types of cats—like fat cats, all-black cats, or with certain breeds—the cat cafés that opened their doors in the U.S. took a different approach. Instead of simply providing an environment for the public to socialize with cats, coffee shops here in the States partner with rescue organizations to provide cats with the opportunity to find their forever home. It's not just a unique social visit, there's a mission behind every cup of coffee served and bagel toasted.

Cat cafés here in the U.S. serve as adoption centers, as well as provide an alternative for folks who cannot take on the long-term commitment of caring for a cat. Individuals get some much-needed kitty snuggle time and the cats

receive lots of socialization; which helps them become better candidates for adoption. Some cafés work with local county-run animal shelters, while others partner with nonprofit organizations. Some shops have entry fees that help offset the cost of caring for the cats while others are free. In addition, these cafés usually offer workshops to the public on topics like spay/neuter, fostering, and general cat care.



Photo: torne (where's my lens cap) via Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

Since the first U.S. cat café opened its doors in 2014, dozens of cafés have joined the cause. Most are concentrated on the coasts with several located in California and a few in the upper New England states. Within seven months of being open, Cat Town in Oakland, CA reported that "the euthanasia rate at its partner shelter has declined from 41 to 21 percent, and 184 cats have made the transition from the café's Cat Zone to permanent homes."^{*} In June 2015, Crumbs and Whiskers opened its first cat café in Washington, D.C., and later opened its second location in Los Angeles, CA in September 2016. To date they've adopted out over 600 cats and saved over 1,300 cats who were at risk of being euthanized.^{**}

In the United States, each cat café must be in compliance with governmental food service regulations. Because of these strict rules, it can be a bit more challenging to open a cat café here than in other countries. However, that isn't stopping rescuers from utilizing this new, highly successful adoption model. In some cases, cat cafés are in such high demand, reservations are required before you can sit with a cat and a cup of coffee.

As for the rest of the world, cat cafés can be found in Canada, Mexico, the UK, across Europe, Russia, India, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the list goes on. So pretty much wherever you may find yourself, at home or abroad, the next time you have a craving for your favorite cup of joe or flaky pastry, you can also enjoy the company of a cat ... you might even go home with a new friend!

^{*}Pape, Allie. "Only Seven Months In, Oakland's Cat Town Café Plots an Expansion." Eater San Francisco 19 May 2015 N.p. Eater San Francisco. Web. 12 April 2018.

^{**}Singh, Kanchan. "A Cat Café Experience." Crumbs & Whiskers, N.p., n.d. Web. 12 April 2018.

Cheap Fix Spay/Neuter Program

ACR's monthly clinic offers low-cost spay and neuter surgeries, plus rabies vaccinations and other services, for feral and owned cats in central Maryland. Our focus is on the free-roaming, outdoor cats in our area because they are the drivers of overpopulation, shelter intake and shelter euthanasia. We also loan humane traps and provide training and education regarding trap-neuter-return.

Nearly all available appointments have been filled this Spring as word of our program continues to spread in the community and kitten season arrives. And as part of our annual May Spay Challenge to get more vets involved in TNR and offering low-cost services, we provided free spay/neuter services for all feral and free-roaming cats who came through the program in May. The more cats spayed, the more kitten lives saved!

Did you know?

Our Cheap Fix clinic also makes us visible to folks in our community who need more than just affordable spay/neuter for cats. This Spring a family who feeds an outdoor cat named Tatito brought him to us with terrible leg and tail injuries, unsure of what to do. Our team sprung into action and quickly had Tatito in the hands of a veterinary surgeon who could handle the task. During a long and challenging surgery, Tatito lost his leg and most of his tail, but we're happy to report that he's recovered and tripodding along indoors just fine with his family!



Our Team

Louise Holton - President & Founder
Denise Hilton - Director of Operations
Desiree Stapley - Director of West Coast Operations
Nikolette Cochran - Program Manager
Elizabeth Thomas - Director of Development
Brianna Grant - Communications Associate
Adam Jablonski - Social Media Specialist
Tom Ragusa - Finance Associate
Cheryl Noll - Volunteer and Colony Caretaker

Board of Directors

Louise Holton, President; Peggy Hilden; Virginia Messina, MPH, RD; Susanna Delman, MPH

Advisory Board

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

Our Work

- Assist cats locally through rescue and adoption.
- Offer subsidized TNR programs and facilitate the work of caretakers to help reduce outdoor cat populations.
- Provide a national communication network for cat caretakers via our Cat Action Teams.
- Find humane solutions for outdoor cats by working with government agencies and the veterinary community.
- Promote the annual May Spay Challenge to build relationships between caretakers and veterinarians worldwide.
- Dispel the myths and the misinformation spread by those who vilify cats and try to ban trap-neuter-return.
- Stop the cruel and inhumane eradication campaigns of those who wish to kill cats.

Donate a Used Vehicle

Give your used car, van or truck a '9th life' as a kitten-courier and cat-sedan!

Alley Cat Rescue is always on the move, travelling to and from TNR projects, transporting cats for shelter transfer or medical treatment, and driving to each of our managed colonies every day to check on their status and provide fresh food and water.

We're looking for donations of two vehicles, one for our program in central Maryland and one for our growing program in Los Angeles, CA. Do you have a car or van to replace our trusty and teal cat-sedan in Maryland? Are you in LA and have a van or large SUV that could be donated and used for transporting cats and volunteers?

Please contact us to learn more about vehicle donation. Not only is your contribution tax deductible, but you will gain the peace of mind knowing that your old vehicle is being used to save cats' lives.



Support Our Work Saving Lives

~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: PO 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 plans. 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, 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."

Spring Sale!



ORDER FORM



ITEM	PRICE	AVAILABLE SIZES (please circle)	QTY	TOTAL
Cat Face t-shirt (white)	\$20 16	S-M-L-XL-2XL-3XL		\$
Cat Face t-shirt (grey)	\$20 16	S-M-L-XL-3XL		\$
ACR v-neck t-shirt (black)	\$18 14	S-M-L-2XL-3XL		\$
ACR long-sleeve (black)	\$20 16	S-M-L-XL-2XL		\$
"TNR is the Cat's Meow" hooded sweatshirt (blue)	\$30 20	S-M-L-XL-2XL		\$
Grocery Bag (cat face logo)	\$10 5	(Green & White)		\$
Tote bag (ACR paw logo)	\$15 12	Grey - Black - Green		\$
Water bottle (aluminum)	\$10 8			\$
ACR's Handbook Guide to Managing Community Cats	\$15.99 11			\$
			Sub-total	\$
Make Checks Payable to: Alley Cat Rescue	Maryland residents ONLY add 6% sales tax please. We provide flat rate shipping and handling.		Tax	\$
		Feeling generous?	Shipping	\$ 7.00
			Donation	\$
Name:			Total	\$
Ship to:				
Phone:		Email:		
Credit Card Orders:	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express			
Name on card:				
Bill to (if different):				
Card Number:		Expiration Date:		

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

Action Alert

DON'T LET CATS BE LABELED AN "INVASIVE SPECIES" — CALL YOUR SENATORS TODAY!

We need to take the real causes of wildlife and bird depletion seriously—habitat loss, climate change, pollution, pesticides—and **STOP the rampant scapegoating of cats.**

Actions you can take today:

- **Contact your legislators** at the federal, state, and local levels. Encourage them to support TNR for managing cats, while also protecting birds. Protest bills that call for eradication programs.
- **Reduce your paper and wood consumption** to save trees and reduce habitat loss in order to protect birds.
- **Create a bird-friendly garden** to encourage migrating birds to use your yard as a safe nesting area. Don't use pesticides; toxic chemicals kill birds and birds need insects for food.
- **Car pool or take public transportation** to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Recycle** and bring reusable bags when shopping.
- **Eat a plant-based, whole foods diet.** Habitat destruction is the number one cause for declining bird and wildlife populations, and diets heavy in animal products contribute to deforestation and pollution.
- **TNR outdoor cats** to reduce local populations. ACR can show you how!



Our Mission

Alley Cat Rescue's 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).



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