



ALLEY CAT RESCUE

AN ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION

www.SaveACat.org • 301-277-5595 • PO Box 585, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712

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

Save Lives by Focusing on Community Cats

How would you save the estimated 860,000 cats euthanized in our nation's shelters each year? (ASPCA)

Would you super-size adoption programs to find more homes for cats? Maybe you'd build more and larger shelters in order to increase capacity to better handle influxes, like during kitten season. While increasing shelter resources is important and impactful, neither of these actions would directly address the animals most at-risk of euthanasia in shelters; unadoptable community cats and their kittens.

Life Saving Programs

Programs that address the specific needs of community cats are crucial for any shelter or community looking to reach the no kill benchmark. A shelter achieves "no kill" status when it reaches a live release rate of at least 90%, meaning at least 9 of 10 cats who enter the shelter leave alive. The majority of animals euthanized in our shelters each day are cats, so it's crucial that we look closely for ways to improve their outcomes.

Starting a trap-neuter-return, or TNR, program is one of the most impactful things a shelter can do when committing to reaching no kill status. Feral cats do not do well in a shelter environment and are most often euthanized for being unsocial and therefore "unadoptable." Feral cats also produce about 80% of the kittens who arrive at shelters each year.

TNR programs typically involve a colony caregiver trapping feral cats, having them spayed/neutered and vaccinated, and then returning them to the place where they were trapped. These caregivers are usually the people managing the colony by providing shelter, daily fresh water and food, and keeping an eye out for any new unsterilized cats or those needing medical attention. Colony caregivers improve the lives of feral cats by providing them with medical treatment and managing them where they are already happy and thriving; outside among their feral friends and away from most

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Community cats prefer to live outside, separate from people. A backyard or space under a porch can be their Garden of Eden.



Feral cat Moira, who gave birth to her kittens at a municipal shelter in March.

Who doesn't love kittens? Well, we know some environmentalists don't, but for the most part the world loves cute kittens. But, can we have too much of a good thing? The answer is sadly, YES!

Kitten Season stretches from April through October and if left unsterilized a female cat can give birth to several litters during that time. Litters can easily come one after another; right now our Los Angeles team is finding cats who are both lactating (have kittens) AND in heat (ready to mate again) at the same time.

A female cat can come into heat at just 4-1/2 months old, so at ACR we advocate spaying cats earlier than that. Kittens can be safely spayed/neutered as soon as they weigh 2 lbs. so, as long as they're healthy, that's when we sterilize them.

To help increase awareness of kitten season and the necessity of early-age spay/neuter among veterinarians, this year we ran our Spring Spay Challenge from March through May. Results are now coming in and we can't wait to see how many cats will be added to our all-time Challenge total

of 60,000+ cats. That's a whole lot of unwanted litters prevented!

This year we are also concentrating on mother cats. Too often compassionate people pick up kittens born in backyards and take them to shelters without considering what happens to the mother.

If you don't get the Mom (and Dad) the cycle just continues, so please, [help us spread the word:](#)

DON'T LEAVE MOM CATS BEHIND!

Kittens often suffer horribly on the streets. They get respiratory infections that lead to pneumonia and eye infections that can cause permanent blindness; parasites can take hold and cause fatal anemia. This year, as in previous years, ACR staff in L.A. and Maryland have seen everything; you can see the results of our hands-on work on our Instagram and Facebook pages.

During just the first week of June we saved five mother cats and 26 kittens from a local shelter. Some were already sick, including one mother, Riley, who was suffering from an

advanced urinary infection yet still nursing her kittens. She was putting all the energy she had into caring for her kittens before collapsing suddenly; Riley was only saved by an emergency trip to the vet for IV fluids and antibiotics.

Your generosity enables us to save mother cats like Riley, her kittens, and many others from terrible conditions. Donations marked for our Compassion Fund are used exclusively to cover the medical and treatment costs of cats in these situations. We are so grateful for your support!



Louise Holton, President & Founder

For the cats,

...continued from page 1.

human contact.

A similar program that can change outcomes for cats at shelters, literally overnight, is called RTF or return-to-field. Cats going through RTF programs are usually “strays” brought to a shelter by animal control officers or individuals. These might be feral cats, but not necessarily. They can include cats who are simply lost or were put out by owners. The principle behind RTF programs is that if a cat is healthy and thriving, she can be returned to the place where she was picked up to either find her own way home or continue living as an outdoor community cat. Cats in RTF programs are given a health check, spayed/neutered, and vaccinated before being returned, just like in TNR.

Something Good for All

More and more, both TNR and RTF are being implemented by forward-looking shelters seeking to improve outcomes for the cats in their area. In addition to saving lives, these programs also have broader community benefits.

TNR and the associated colony management are most often done by volunteers and donor-supported non-profit groups, who also cover the costs of sterilization and vaccination. This keeps more finite financial resources (i.e. tax-payer dollars) in the hands of shelters. TNR also results in fewer cats living outside overall, which helps to address concerns about wildlife predation.

RTF programs reduce the number of cats being admitted to shelters and provide lost and stray cats with important health services; without a prolonged exposure to the shelter environment. They also improve a cat’s chance at finding her way home by returning her to familiar territory. Studies unfortunately show that very few lost cats are retrieved by their owners at shelters. Healthy cats who are returned outside, as opposed to being admitted to a shelter, at least have an opportunity to find their own way home, assuming they were even lost in the first place. According to the American Pet Products Association, more than 25% of cats are “adopted” as strays; even after leaving the shelter, RTF cats still have a good chance at finding their way home or finding a new caregiver.

Ending the Cycle

The third program that really helps shelters meet their no kill goal is high-volume, no- and low-cost spay/neuter. Shelters with these programs are able to efficiently and economically reduce cat populations, which leads to lower intake and euthanasia rates. Spay/neuter also reduces suffering, as female feral cats are prevented from birthing litter after litter; male ferals suffer fewer injuries fighting over territory and mates; and vulnerable kittens never have to fight to survive. Spay/neuter also protects cats from certain cancers.

We can’t expect community cats to thrive and succeed in a traditional sheltering environment. They’re a square peg to a traditional program’s round hole. TNR and RTF succeed because they meet community cats where they are and accept their unique characteristics. When implemented in conjunction with accessible spay/neuter programs, the result is more available cage space, staff time, and funding, for sick, injured, or surrendered cats, and most importantly, *more cat lives saved.*



Shelters are unfamiliar & stressful places for feral cats, who often react with unsocial and defensive behavior.



Humane box traps are used to safely and securely trap cats for TNR.



Angels of Assisi, Roanoke, VA. Their high-volume clinic can spay/neuter up to 100 cats in a day.



About 30,000 kittens will enter Los Angeles County and City shelters during kitten season. If you're surprised by that number, you're not alone. A 2017 Petco survey showed that more than half of respondents were unaware that "kitten season" even exists!

Perhaps the greatest challenge of kitten season comes from unweaned, orphaned kittens, who require constant care and monitoring because their mother is not around to help. These kittens have a decreased rate of survival; there's just no replacement for the sustenance and care that a mother cat provides and in shelters, many kittens fail to thrive and are lost. A shelter full of orphaned kittens is an emotional and monumental challenge for staff, volunteers, foster caregivers, and the kittens too.

Plus, mom is still out there, continuing to reproduce. If she is allowed to keep breeding outside, she and her offspring could add hundreds, if not thousands, of cats to future kitten seasons over their lifetimes. *That's why during every kitten rescue we ask ourselves, "What about the mother?"*

Leaving mother cats behind perpetuates the kitten season problem; they produce multiple litters per year, typically of 4-6 kittens, and they can go into heat and begin the reproduction process again before they even finish nursing a litter.

If you find a litter of kittens, don't assume they've been abandoned! Their mother could just be searching for food and is on her way back. Instead, keep an eye on the kittens and see if mom returns. If she does and the family is nested in a safe place, let them be until the kittens are big enough to be sterilized (2+ pounds, ~2 months old). Then, humanely trap them ALL, kittens, mom, dad and anyone else you find, and take them to a clinic for spay/neuter and vaccination. Kittens can then be socialized and adopted and any unsocial adults can be returned to complete the TNR process.

Please help put an end to the suffering caused by unchecked breeding of outdoor cats! Whether you're in California, Maryland, or anywhere in between, it's certain that there's a shelter and community cats nearby who you could help with Trap-Neuter-Return. Visit the links below to learn more about TNR and find low-cost clinics and TNR groups near you!

Learn to TNR

[SAVEACAT.ORG/TNR-STEP-BY-STEP](https://saveacat.org/tnr-step-by-step)

Find low-cost spay/neuter

[SAVEACAT.ORG/STATE-LOW-COST-SPAYNEUTER](https://saveacat.org/state-low-cost-spayneuter)

Connect with local TNR groups

[SAVEACAT.ORG/STATE-RESOURCES](https://saveacat.org/state-resources)

We found Layla and her siblings on a rooftop overlooking the Hollywood Hills. It took quite a bit of effort to coax them from that spectacular view, but our L.A. team eventually trapped them all. However, the story didn't end there.

Layla was suffering from an awful eye injury and she and her siblings did not react well to their first human contact. They were already about eight weeks old, putting them near the tail end of the optimal socialization period. They had no idea that people could be trusted and we worried that the feral mindset had permanently taken hold. Layla was especially wary, likely due to the pain from her injury.

Layla received treatment at a local animal hospital and our team began working with each kitten to gain their trust. Over the course of a few days, cowering in corners turned into nervous finger sniffs, and once the treats came out, we found we'd won them over. Thanks to your support, Layla and her siblings had time and a safe place to socialize and prepare for adoption. Today, each is in a loving, forever home!



Cars for Cats

Give your vehicle a “9th life” as a kitten courier and community cat sedan!

Alley Cat Rescue is always on the move. Each day our team gets to work; travelling to and from TNR projects; transporting cats for spay/neuter, shelter transfer or medical treatment; and driving to each of our managed colonies to check on their wellbeing and provide fresh food and water.

But these days, our cars are doing more puttering than purring, so we're looking for donations of two reliable vehicles, one for our program in southern 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 L.A. 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's seventh, eighth, or ninth life is devoted to helping cats in need.



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: 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, 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.”

A Humane Option

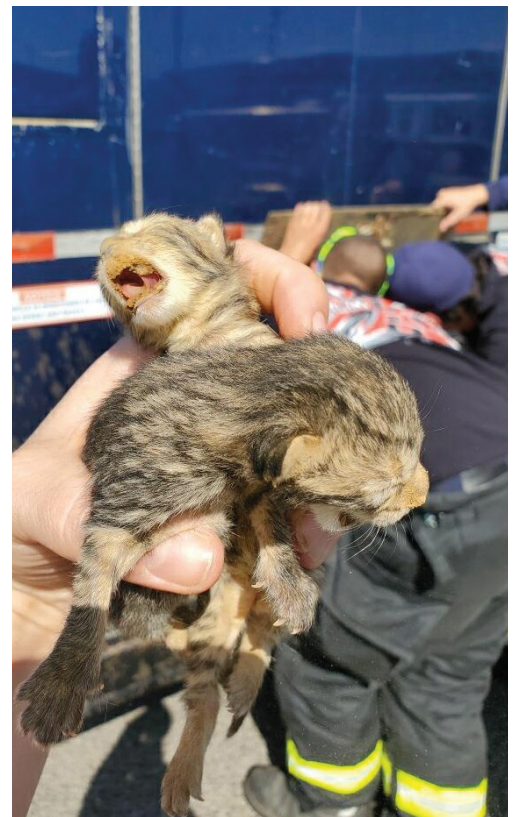
Here at Alley Cat Rescue, we believe in the power of TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) when dealing with community cats. Because the euthanization of community cats and kittens in shelters is so common, we are committed to TNRing as many community cats as possible in order to benefit the livelihood of all cats. By implementing TNR for community cats, we are helping shelters reduce the number of cats and kittens they take in, which eases overcrowding and capacity-based euthanasia. Our staff and volunteers operate in Maryland, Roanoke, VA, and Los Angeles.

This year's Spring Spay Challenge, which runs throughout March, April, and May, before Kitten Season begins, just finished and we can't wait to share the results! The challenge began in 2010 as a day-long program and has grown each year to accommodate more veterinarians, clinics, and volunteers. Together, ACR and participating vets have sterilized tens of thousands of cats during the Challenge.

And, it doesn't stop there! We offer two weekly clinics from our Maryland and Los Angeles locations, as well as sponsoring free spay/neuter clinics throughout the year with our partners in Roanoke, VA.

Our Maryland team is a resource for the community, TNRing with local businesses and residents, running a low- to no-cost spay/neuter clinic, and of course, rescuing cats and kittens and nursing them back to health. Thanks to our amazing partner veterinarians and your financial support, each one we meet receives life-saving care, is nursed back to health, and then placed in a forever home.

In Los Angeles, we're increasing our involvement in the community and helping TNR in some interesting situations. We're making a big push in L.A. because right now TNR can only be done by private citizens or groups like ACR. There are currently an estimated 2-3 million free-roaming cats in Los Angeles County who could be helped by TNR.



Rescued day-old kittens, born inside a municipal water truck in May, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Declawing



New York

Killing Cats



California

Killing Cats



Australia

Abuse



PACT Act

Jesting



KITTEN Act

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 _____

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

Sub Total	\$
Sales Tax (6%)*	+\$
Shipping**	+\$7.00
Donation	+\$
TOTAL	\$

**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!*

Log on and *make a difference* for cats!

Take action
to protect cats!



Open to see how!



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ACR Team!*

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ALLEY CAT RESCUE

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