

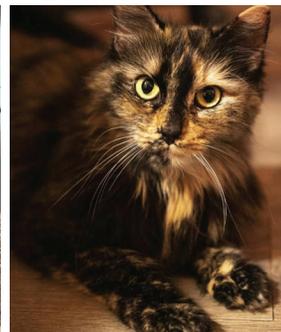


ALLEY CAT RESCUE

AN ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION www.SaveACat.org
301-277-5595



FISCAL YEAR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Mission Statement

Alley Cat Rescue is leading the way in promoting humane and compassionate care for all cats.

Our Work

- Promote compassionate and nonlethal care for ALL cats
- Help individuals locate free and low-cost spay/neuter programs
- Assist with cat behavioral problems to keep cats in their homes
- Educate the public about feline diseases
- Connect individuals with TNR groups through our national Cat Action Teams
- Protect the genetic integrity of the African Wildcat through TNR of feral cats

Our Impact

- TNR thousands of feral cats plus promotes TNR globally
- Early age spay/neuter
- Vet Challenge has sterilized 130,000 cats
- Neuter before adoption
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Lowering cat intake at shelters

Helping Cats
for 23 years!

The Effectiveness of TNR Programs: Why Eradication Does Not Work

Every day more and more sterilization programs for feral cats are being implemented across the United States and around the world. Compassionate communities are embracing this humane, non-lethal method of managing community cats, not only because it preserves the sanctity of innocent life, but also simply because it is effective. Unlike its traditional counterpart, catch-and-kill, which has been practiced for decades, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs stabilize populations, improve the overall health of outdoor cats, and reduce both shelter costs and euthanasia rates. In addition, such programs drive community involvement and encourage compassionate actions.

The above is taken from [ACR's Guide to Managing Community Cats](#) (see Merchandise page)

The book contains information for SPCAs, animal control agencies, town, city and county governments to help them make decisions to help control feral cat colonies, using effective, humane methods. Let us know if you want us to send a copy to your areas' decision makers.

Predation is always a hot topic, with studies and reports often extrapolated or exaggerated. The book has information on predation such as:

Cats are carnivores and opportunistic feeders

Cats are carnivores, equipped with highly developed senses, sharp teeth and claws. Scientific evidence about outdoor, domestic stray cats or feral cats shows that:

- (1) Cats typically catch small mammals, such as rats and mice, and they feed on insects and human garbage. Cats are rodent specialists. Birds are harder for cats to catch.
- (2) Cats, as with all carnivores, prey on young, sick and weak animals.
- (3) Cats who rely solely on hunting for food spend much of their time seeking food and stalking it. They often have to wait for hours for potential prey to come by and often are unsuccessful at making a kill.

Many zoologists have observed that feral cats become scavengers, hanging out in alleys and behind hotels and restaurants near the dumpsters, waiting for trash to be thrown out, with the predictable leftover scraps of human food. And this, in turn, draws in all the rats and mice, as they, too, seek out food.

The bottom line is that you cannot catch-and-kill 30 to 50 million feral cats on continents like the U.S. or Australia. Only on small remote Islands have they been able to eradicate feral cats. This was only after many years using every method available: traps, shooting, poisoning, dogs, and even using viruses like panleukopenia to kill cats. And after eradication most of the rats and rabbit population took over, now without predators, and harmed the very birds they were trying to save. Imagine what would happen on a continent if they were to achieve the complete eradication of cats?



Louise Holton
President/Founder

Feral Overpopulation in Los Angeles

Take a walk anywhere in the vast city of Los Angeles, California and you will be able to find at least one stray or feral cat if you look carefully. From the suburbs of the San Fernando Valley to the historic, smog-stained buildings of downtown, community cats hide in bushes and alleyways in search of just enough food to keep them going for another day.

The overpopulation and plight of community cats in Los Angeles was made significantly worse not many years ago. Los Angeles shelters used to issue vouchers to sterilize feral cats, which were vital to the work of colony caretakers, independent rescue groups, and individual good samaritans. In 2008 the City was sued over this by environmental groups that believe outdoor cats are a danger to the surrounding natural wildlife and the court issued an injunction prohibiting city shelters from distributing any spay vouchers. What's more, shelters were prohibited from even simply disseminating any information that would help street cats.

This was a misguided attempt at controlling the feral cat population, as the only proven way to keep numbers in check is to sterilize the animals so no new litters are born. This action against outdoor cats has resulted in an explosion of cats on the streets and led to record intakes of cats at the shelters. Tens of thousands of cats have since suffered and died on the streets and in shelters, where the survival rate for feral and even cats assumed to be feral is almost 0%. A Los Angeles Animal Services' Woof Stat Report disclosed that there was a total intake of 22,798 cats, or in other words, a 15% increase from 2018 to 2019. Spaying and neutering cats through TNR spares cats from the pains of malnourishment, common but devastating infections and diseases, and euthanasia. Alley Cat Rescue stepped in to do this necessary work eight years ago and we have been spaying and neutering around 40 cats per week and we are searching for the resources necessary to do many more.

ACR's then-Communications Specialist attended all of the subsequent hearings about the injunction to advocate for its repeal. He also submitted to the court statistics-based reports and letters that showed TNR works to decrease community cat populations as well as the harm that the injunction was causing street cats.

The injunction was finally overturned in December of 2020, but the damage had been done. Earlier this year during Kitten Season, we came upon far too many kittens languishing from infections and parasites. Community cats may need to scrounge in trash cans to get the bare minimum of food they need to survive, yet they still somehow manage to produce litter after litter of kittens. Many of these cats become victims as hosts to parasites and upper respiratory infections (URIs) due to lack of basic veterinary care and vaccinations, which TNR would provide them. URIs are highly contagious, spreading quickly when the virus symptoms are present, and therefore affecting large swaths of the cat population. Parasites such as fleas and ticks also have a rapid spread rate, infesting thousands of cats. When cats are afflicted with these ailments, they need fluids, antibiotics, and often must be force-fed. Many have high fevers and need to be taken to emergency clinics immediately or they will die. Ultimately, cats in these conditions

need around-the-clock care, which is difficult even for rescues to achieve due to the high amount of resources needed.

ACR has advocated for the feral cats of L.A. since the first court injunction was handed down in 2008. Our members responded to our Action Alerts, sending their public comments to city officials every step of the way, and with their support we created our Los Angeles TNR program. Unfortunately, as we and other rescue groups are battling overpopulation, the COVID crisis has exacerbated the situation. With shelters closed or operating at minimum capacity, we have had to work harder than ever before to take on the sterilization, care, and foster housing that would usually fall to them. To this point, L.A. Animal Services' Woof Stats Report shows that the number of spay/neuter surgeries performed on cats by L.A. Animal Services vets decreased 60% from 2019 to 2020. The number of surgeries on kittens has decreased by 48%. California has been one of the places in the United States hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic and shelters have been shut down since last March.

The future has never seemed more uncertain. However, we at Alley Cat Rescue remain steadfastly committed to helping cats in need. We are encouraged daily by the support and participation of our members and the happiness of those cats whose lives we have saved.



Transporting Cats to Safety

Los Angeles has an estimated two million community cats - the highest of any city in the U.S. This figure includes friendly strays. Thankfully, there are northern neighbors areas such as Northern California, Oregon, and Washington that are in the opposite situation; they regularly run low on cats available for their residents to adopt. ACR has partnered with other animal welfare groups to help fill those areas' deficits by adopting some of L.A.'s surplus out to them. ACR has so far completed the transport of 400 cats from Los Angeles to good homes in the aforementioned regions. All of the cats were fully vetted before take off; including sterilization, vaccinations, microchipped, dewormed, and treatment for fleas.

Cats rescued from the streets and backyards of LA and transported to homes in other West Coast regions.



Help Save Cats' Lives by Supporting Our Work

Donate online at www.saveecat.org/donate.html

Donating through Network for Good and Paypal is easy and secure. Click on either icon on our webpage to get started.

Please consider supporting ACR's work on an ongoing basis. Our monthly giving program, the Cat Circle, helps the cats who need us the most. Our life-saving programs rely on steady funding from generous donors. Every month, we trap and neuter cats and take in medical cases such as cats with broken bones, severe infections, and newborn kittens. Without the help of our Cat Circle members, these cats wouldn't receive all of the care they need to survive. You can set up a recurring monthly donation through Network for Good or PayPal.

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
Phone: 301-277-5595
Email: acr@saveecat.org
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 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."

Car Donation

Donate your car to help homeless cats and receive a charity tax deduction in the process. You'll be getting rid of a vehicle taking up space in your garage or driveway and avoiding costly repairs and the headache and hassle of selling a vehicle. To begin the donation process, call (855) 500-RIDE (7433) or click the link at www.saveecat.org/donate.html

Matching Gifts

Most places of employment offer a Matching Gift program for their employees to encourage community engagement. Be sure to ask your Human Resources Department if your company participates in a Matching Gift program. Your donation could be doubled!

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

Federal employees may donate through the workplace via the Combined Federal Campaign. A payroll deduction can be designated to benefit Alley Cat Rescue each year by submitting a new pledge form. Our CFC number is 10472.

Calls to Action - Helping cats through advocacy

At ACR, we love rolling up our sleeves in the field doing TNR, rescuing sick cats from shelters, and caring for colonies of community cats. However, a lot of our advocacy work takes place at a desk, composing petitions and letter templates to people in positions to affect needed change. These are tools that anyone can use to play a meaningful part in bettering the lives of cats. You will find calls to action using these methods in the Action Alerts section of our website (<http://www.saveecat.org/action-alerts.html>) as well as in every one of our mailings.

Our online petitions have been particularly successful and effective in recent years. Our petition to stop government-approved cat killing in Australia has garnered 94,063 signatures. In 2015, a plan was announced to kill two million cats by 2020 as a means to control a perceived overpopulation of feral cats on the continent and preserve threatened native species that the cats hunt. Aside from the obvious cruelty of the plan, it is based on the faulty claim that there are around 20 million feral cats in Australia. This figure is entirely fabricated. A subsequent study in 2017 gave a much more scientifically sound estimate of between 2.1 and 6.3 million. Additionally, no matter how large the feral cat population, killing cats is proven to be an ineffective way of managing it long term. Only on remote islands have they been able to eradicate all cats, but often with unintended negative consequences.

Although 2020 has now come and gone, this program is still in place. As recently as December 18th, the Australian news site news.com.au published an article saying the government is introducing a "state-of-the-art machine" that sprays cats with poison will be introduced into their arsenal. If you haven't yet signed the petition on our website (at <http://www.saveecat.org/action-alerts.html>), please do. Our fight for humane nonlethal control continues!

Our online petition to stop the killing of kittens used for research at a USDA lab in Beltsville, Maryland (the KITTEN Act of 2019) received the support of 80,330 signees and an additional 6,228 people signed and mailed our paper petitions for the same cause. The lab had been euthanizing kittens once they'd used them for testing. In April of 2019, the USDA succumbed to pressure and announced that it was ending its experimentation on, and subsequent killing of kittens. We and over 80 thousand of our members are proud to have been a loud part of the outcry that shut down this inhumane practice.

The following are some of the other causes for which we put out calls to action:

The Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act, which has since been made into law. We sent out paper petitions, which over 2,000 of our members signed, as well as provided a letter template on our website that

continued on next page

Saving Precious Lives

Ash was a victim of a domestic violence situation. His jaw was broken, and his TMJ fractured and several teeth shattered; Following his emergency care, Ash had several surgeries to fix his jaw and remove some teeth. The whole process was very traumatic for him, but we worked closely with multiple medical teams to ensure he was as comfortable as possible each step of the way. After months of treatment he fully recovered. We were thrilled that he was adopted into a wonderful family that absolutely dotes on him and showers him with attention and love.

We rescued Cali along with five other cats from a shelter in South Los Angeles. She had a distinctive head tilt and was immediately taken to our vet. After an extensive check-up, Cali was started on treatment for an inner-ear infection. After two rounds of medication and multiple vet visits Cali's head tilt remained. It doesn't seem to bother her and she is otherwise healthy and able to jump up and down cat trees and is an active sweet girl.

She had a final checkup at the vet last weekend and got a clean bill of health. She has been adopted and is enjoying her new family, which includes two dogs. She even shares her toys



with them! She also reportedly loves burritos and tries to steal them from her humans!

ACR rescued Moo Moo Miles, along with 6 siblings from a feral colony on the streets of Los Angeles. A family on the East Coast followed the rescue story and fell in love! Despite the distance, we were determined to get Miles the home he deserved. We teamed up with SWATT rescue and undertook the difficult task of coordinating a flight for our boy to his eager adopters. We are all elated to see that he is happy and comfortable with his new family.

Linus is a handsome guy who needed a little extra time and patience. We were alerted to a shy, skinny dirty white cat that was living alone in the garage. We rescued Linus and it was clear to us that he was a friendly cat, but had been living outdoors for a while and was very scared. We gave him time to decompress and get used to living indoors. Once in our care he was able to clean himself off and imagine our surprise when we found a flame point siamese under all that dirt!. Linus initially had a bit of trouble with the adjustment, hiding in small spaces and hissing whenever his clever hideouts were uncovered. Fortunately he was food motivated and learned to slowly re-trust people and follow the

continued on page 6

Calls to Action *continued from page 4*

people could use to send to their federal legislature representatives, urging them to support this Act.

Banning declawing in New York: The first bill to ban declawing state-wide was signed in July of 2019. Declawing is a painful procedure that strips cats of their natural defenses and we urged everyone in New York we could reach through our mailings to use the letter template on our website to implore their representatives to vote in support of the bill.

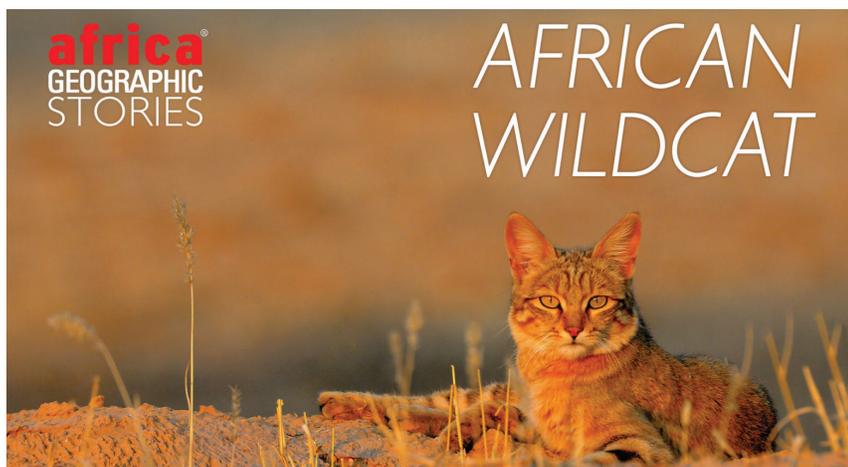
We mailed out thousands of Speak Out For Cats petitions, which confronted the American Bird Conservancy, Wildlife Society, National Audubon Society, and Cornell Ornithology Lab's cruel stance on feral cats. These four groups advocate moving community cats to sanctuaries (though no such thing exists) or killing them - by any means necessary as one author put it. They do not accept the data-based proof that TNR works to decrease community cat populations over time. Our petition pressures them to change course and publicly support TNR programs. We have collected 483 signatures with this petition so far and we will continue calling attention to this cause.

Some battles can be waged with the stroke of a pen – or click of a mouse. For those of you whose hearts are with our mission to ensure humane treatment of all cats, answering our calls to action is something you can do that has a great impact.

Cat Writers' Association Awards

2019 Muse Medallion Winner: **SOCIAL MEDIA EXCELLENCE: RESCUE & ADVOCACY**
Alley Cat Rescue Instagram and Facebook

2019 CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE CWA COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST FOR THE 2019 CONTEST YEAR: **Written Article in the Lifestyle Category - Louise Holton, "Help the whole family during kitten season"**



Alley Cat Rescue's African Wildcat Conservation program, which operates along the border of Kruger National Park in South Africa, is mentioned in this African Geographic article. So far our team in South Africa has TNRd 2,100 cats from Sabie through Hazyview, Hoedspruit, and Acornhoek and Casteel up through Phalaborwa African wildcats and feral cats are both benefiting from this project!

other foster cats for food. He loved attention and we found out that he was extremely affectionate. After being in a few foster homes with other cats, he was adopted and is now soaking up all of the love and attention.

In early December, we rescued a mama cat and her litter of seven newborn kittens. The mama was underweight so we helped her and the kittens by supplementing their feedings with KMR formula. One of the babies, BubbleGum, has been slow to gain weight. We fought for BubbleGum, getting him blood tests to try to find a cause for his small size, and feeding him by hand when he and his litter mates began eating wet food.

BubbleGum slowly made progress, showing himself to be energetic and outgoing despite his tiny size. We were all delighted to see him playing and eating like a healthy kitten should. However, in early February he began showing symptoms of limping Calicivirus. While his littermates had been vaccinated, he was still too small at that point. We treated him with medication for fever and pain and kept a close watch on him. Finally after an anxiety-filled two weeks, BubbleGum improved significantly. He still has some health issues, for which he is receiving care. Despite many setbacks at such a young age, he is a joyful little bundle who loves playing and snuggling with his littermates.

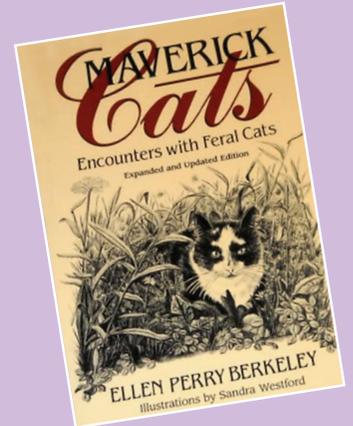
URGENTLY NEEDED: Used Car/Van Los Angeles, CA and Maryland



We urgently need a van to transport feral cats in traps to the spay clinic several times a week in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is currently undergoing a crisis with thousands of unsterilized cats roaming the streets. Alley Cat Rescue is doing our best to help stop kittens from being born on the streets, where 50% of kittens fall ill to treatable diseases that can kill them without medical intervention.

We're also looking for a donation of another vehicle for our program in Maryland. Do you have a car or van to help us with our daily operations?

Please contact us to learn more about donating your vehicle. In addition to your contribution being tax-deductible, you will gain peace of mind knowing that your old vehicle is being used to save cats' lives! Call 301-277-5595 or Email acr@alleycatrescue.org.



Buy a copy of Ellen Perry Berkeley's book, "Maverick Cats: Encounters with Feral Cats" and she will donate \$3 to Alley Cat Rescue!

Send a check in the amount of \$11.95 to Ellen Perry Berkeley, along with your name, mailing address, and mention of this ad to 236 Village Lane, Bennington, VT 05201

2020 Financial Report

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Public Support:

Contributions and Donations	\$1,646,669
Legacies and Bequests	\$245,100
Grants.....	\$68,586
Total Public Support.....	\$1,960,355
Other Revenue	\$340,343
Merchandise	\$11,324
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,313,022

EXPENSES

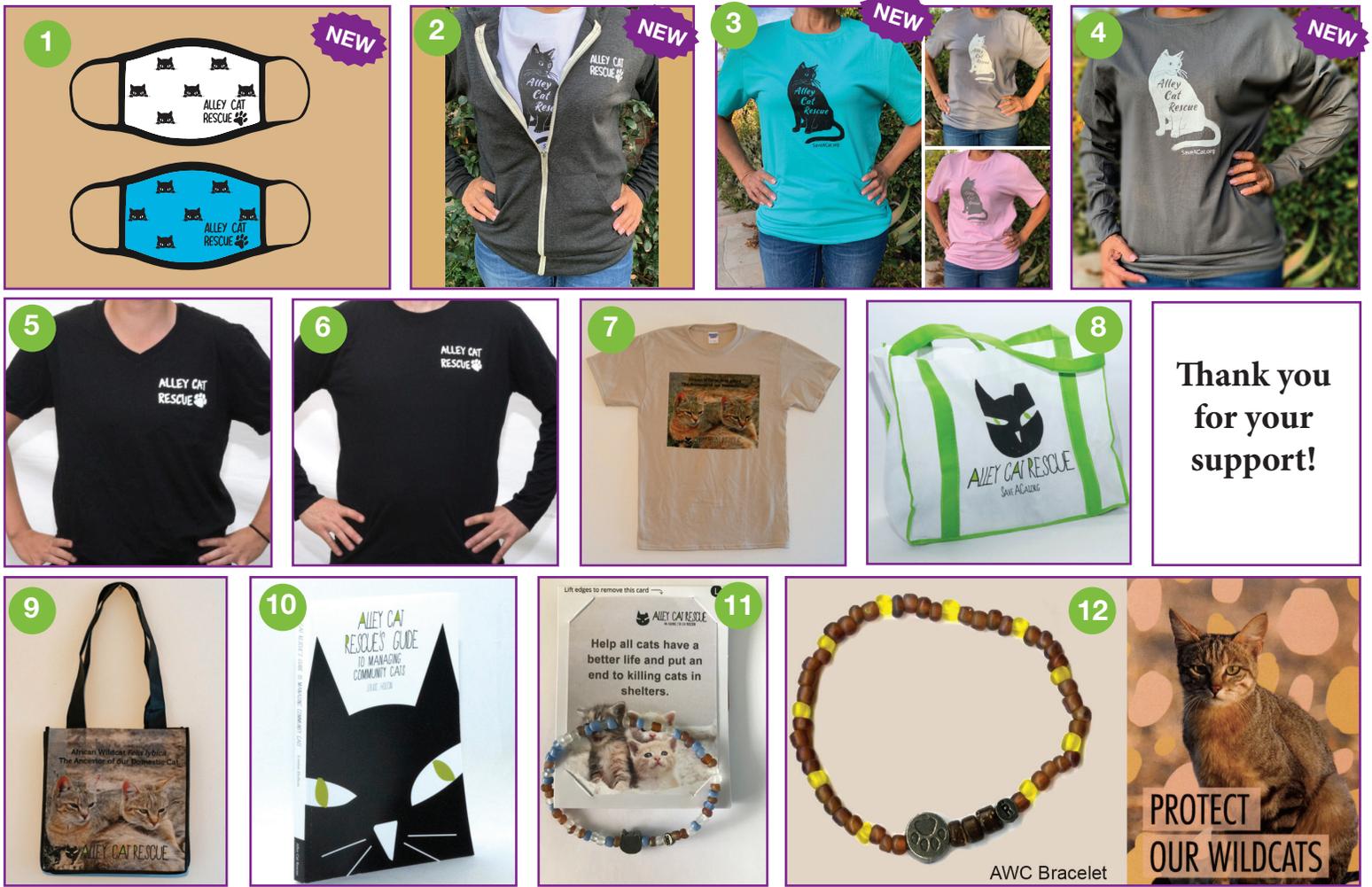
Programs:

Newsletters and Publications	\$223,550
Advocacy & Promoting Spay/Neuter ...	\$313,327
Education and Public Relations.....	\$245,535
Direct Care & Services	\$590,466
National & Global Programs	\$244,267
Campaigns & Outreach	\$269,276
Total Program Expenses.....	\$1,866,421

Supporting Services:

Management and General.....	\$136,988
Development	\$253,889
Total Supporting Services	\$390,887
Total Expenses	\$2,257,308





**Thank you
for your
support!**

ORDER FORM

Name _____ Order Total \$ _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

#	ITEM	PRICE	SIZE (Please Circle)	# OF ITEMS	TOTAL
1	ACR Face Mask	\$12	\$20 for 2		\$
2	Zip Up Hoodie	\$40	S M L XL 2XL		\$
3	T-shirt short sleeve: Grey, White, Teal, Lilac	\$25	S M L XL 2XL		\$
4	T-shirt long sleeve: Grey	\$30	S M L XL 2XL		\$
5	Black V-neck T-shirt	\$20	S M L		\$
6	Black long sleeve T-shirt	\$25	S M L XL 2XL		\$
7	African Wildcat T-shirt	\$16	M L XL		\$
8	Canvas Handbag: Green, Grey, Blue, Black	\$12	N/A		\$
9	African Wildcat Shoulder Tote Bag	\$10	N/A		\$
10	Alley Cat Rescue's Guide to Managing Community Cats Paperback Book	\$9	N/A		\$
11	ACR Bracelet	\$10	S M L		\$
12	African Wildcat Bracelet - Help save the African Wildcat	\$10	S M L		\$

Please add sales tax: Maryland residents + 6%
California residents + 7.25%

**There is a flat shipping rate of \$7.00 for ALL purchases.

All donations are tax-deductible.

SUB TOTAL	\$
Sales Tax	+\$
Shipping**	+7.00
Donation	+\$
TOTAL	\$

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

Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card Number _____ CCV# _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

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

Meet Our Team

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Elsa Sintiga, *Program Assistant*
Cheryl Noll, *Volunteer Colony Caretaker*
Drew Weidhaas, *Volunteer S/N Programs (L.A.)*

Global Feral Fix Challenge

Approximately 3.2 million cats enter U.S. animal shelters every year and approximately 860,000 cats are euthanized, the majority of whom are healthy. Kittens are in danger both in shelters and the streets. Due to their undeveloped immune systems, feral kittens have only a 50% survival rate, and even those who make it to maturity often do so with the scars of painful disease. It is a waste of life that can be curbed only by controlling the numbers of unowned cats through spay and neuter, and releasing the fixed cats back into the community rather than moving them into the shelter system - a veritable death sentence for ferals. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that of the 30 to 40 million community cats in the U.S., only 2% are spayed/neutered.

But here are some more uplifting statistics:

A little over 10 years ago, Alley Cat Rescue launched its first TNR challenge to the veterinary community with "Feral Cat Spay Day" - a day during which ACR encouraged the veterinary community to offer free or low-cost spay/neuter services for community cats. This program has developed from those relatively humble beginnings into a global, year-long effort known as the Global Feral Fix Challenge. As a result of last year's Challenge, 50,328 cats were spayed and neutered through 54 different participating veterinary clinics. This puts the total number of community cats fixed through the program at about 130,000. This progress has been possible only through compassionate donors and veterinarians.

Call To Action!: Let's strive to make 2021 the program's most impactful year yet. Please contact your vet today and invite them to join the 2021 Global Feral Fix Challenge! They can sign up at www.saveacat.org/the-feral-fix.html. Their participation will save lives.



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AN ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION www.SaveACat.org

P.O. BOX 96499 • WASHINGTON, DC 20077

