

Alley Cat MEWS

Volume 14, Issue 1

www.saveacat.org

Winter Adoption Weekend Success!

On February 15th & 16th, PETsMART stores hosted their winter adoption weekend. Alley Cat Rescue campaign manager Denise was on site to help, along with volunteers Victoria, Dave and Melissa. In the previous week, we had rescued 12 cats from our local shelter who were in danger of being euthanized. During this weekend, several of these cats, as well as some other kitties who we had taken in as strays, found their forever homes. Whiskers was adopted within hours of arriving at the adoption center!



Blink, rescued from the local animal shelter



Elise, who wants to be a vet when she grows up, and her mom, were looking at kitties to adopt. She really enjoyed meeting Duffield, a HUGE orange tabby.

Victoria is a college student who comes down to help as often as she can. She hopes to start her own rescue once she graduates from school and moves to a bigger place. For now, she is so happy to be helping ACR find forever homes for their kitties. Dave is retired and enjoys spending his free time helping the cats. We are so grateful to have dedicated volunteers who can assist us with our everyday

needs like cleaning and caring for the cats.



Volunteer Victoria and Whiskers

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Kitty Trivia!

Ailurophilia is the love of cats. Cats have three eyelids. The nose pad of a cat is ridged in a pattern that is unique, just like the fingerprint of a human.

White paws on cats are commonly called boots when in fact they are referred to as gloves.

There are more than 500 million domestic cats in the world, with 33 different breeds.

Chattam Island in the Pacific is overrun by thousands of cats--every one of them black--that live on fish.

Scientific comparison and examination of both a dogs brain and a cats brain has shown that a cats brain is more similar to a human's than that of the dog.

Cougars can kill animals eight times their size.

There is no single cat called the panther. The name is commonly applied to the leopard, but it is also used to refer to the puma and the jaguar. A black panther is really a black leopard.

25% of cat owners blow dry their cats hair after a bath.

Almost 10 percent of a cat's bones are in its tail

Calico cats are almost always female.

Cats have thirty teeth. Kittens have baby teeth which are replaced by permanent fangs at around seven months of age.



If your cat is near you, and her tail is quivering, this is the greatest expression of love your cat can give you. If her tail starts thrashing, her mood has changed --- Time to distance yourself from her.

Credit: http://petcaretips.net/cat_trivia.html

Cat-loving men are more attractive, says new study! by Chloe Hukin, from <http://www.yourcat.co.uk/>

Men who want to improve their chances with the ladies should consider palling up with a feline friend to help attract a partner, according to a new survey out today.

Cats Protection found that women think cat-loving men possess many qualities they find attractive when looking for love.

The research, which was carried out for Valentine's Day this week, found that six in ten women across the UK think men who own cats are more caring, making them more appealing as a partner. And far from being seen as wimpy, cat ownership appears to be a manly quality as just 27 per cent of women think cat-owning men are sappy.

The research also found that 48 per cent of women think having a cat enhances human relationships, 42 per cent of women think men who own cats are more loving, and 44 per cent think men who own cats are kinder.

Star of 'The Vampire Diaries', US actor Ian Somerhalder is not short of female admirers and the photograph Ian has donated to Cats Protection to celebrate Valentine's Day perhaps shows why – the cute image of him cuddling his cat Moke definitely shows his caring side!



ACTION ALERT: **Stop Trapping of Wildlife in National Wildlife Refuges**

What do you expect to see when visiting a National Wildlife Refuge? Animals in their natural habitats, protected from harm from humans and living their lives as naturally as possible. However: more than half of America's refuges allow trapping.

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) has worked with Born Free USA and our colleagues to reintroduce the "Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act" (H.R. 2657). This initiative would end the use of traps in wildlife refuges to trap not only supposedly protected wildlife, but domestic companions visiting the refuges – and people. In 2013, Born Free USA reported 30 incidents of Non-Target trappings, many of them family dogs.

Please contact your U.S. Representative regarding sponsorship of this bill. Help stop the barbaric, inhumane, and largely unregulated trapping practice in National Wildlife Refuges.

You can contact Nita Lowey to support this bill here: Washington, D.C. Office
2365 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-6506
202-225-0546 (fax)

And you can find your representative in congress on this website:
<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Paws Up, Paws Down by Julie Cannon



Paws Up, Coastal Carolina University!

Conway, South Carolina's Coastal Carolina University is implementing a new Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program called the Conway Kitty Corral, in conjunction with Horry County Animal Care Center and Save-R-Cats to round up strays on and around the school's campus, spay or neuter them, then return them to campus. The program is funded by a PetSmart Grant to Horry County, and care of the cats once they're released will come from student and faculty volunteers. The cats will be able to live in shelters built by Save-R-Cats.

Paws Down, Phoenix College!



Phoenix College of Phoenix, Arizona has officially ended its efforts to control the campus's feral cat population through a T-N-R program. School officials claim that despite their efforts to control the number of cats on campus, the population has instead doubled. As of Sunday, February 9, the remaining cats on campus had been trapped and brought to the local humane society to be either adopted or euthanized. Unfortunately for the cats and the school, stopping the T-N-R program is likely to only worsen the feral cat issue. Once a group of feral cats are removed from an area through catch-and-kill, the ones who elude the traps or new cats hiding out on the periphery will shortly appear in that same area. The process of trapping and killing has to take place in the same area repeatedly, again and again and again. This phenomenon was coined "The Vacuum Effect" in 1983 by wildlife biologist Roger Tabor in his studies of London street cats.

Feral Cat Spay Day 2014

Alley Cat Rescue will host our 5th annual "Feral Cat Spay Day" on May 27, 2014 to help end cat homelessness and reduce shelters' euthanasia rates. We have asked each participating veterinarian to spay or neuter at least two feral cats for free again this year. FCSD has been a success with over 700 vets from 45 states and 3 countries sterilizing over 5100 cats! FCSD has also become an international campaign thanks to several of our veterinarian friends in South Africa and Canada. By partnering with veterinarians, members of the community, and other rescue organizations practicing TNR we **CAN** end cat homelessness.

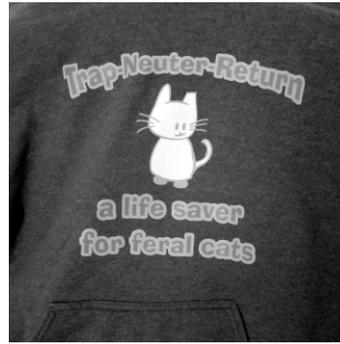


Articles in The Baltimore Examiner, Paw Talk, The Messenger-Gazette, and Pets Best Blog featuring FCSD have certainly helped to promote our campaign, but we could still use your help. Rescue organizations cannot tackle this issue alone, so please get involved and help us make "Feral Cat Spay Day 2014" an even greater success. Caretakers can easily locate and contact participating vets in their area year round using the new database on our website. Please encourage your vet to join us by filling out and returning the form below, or by signing up using our website www.saveacat.org. The more vets and TNR programs we inspire to join us, the more lives we will save!

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- Large
- X-Large



<---- Red Long Sleeved T-shirt \$20

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Slightly slimmer fit

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What is the truth about Whales and Toxoplasmosis? Should we be blaming cats? By Louise Holton

Lately there has been a flurry of news articles about the Artic Beluga whale being infected with Toxoplasmosis. Predictably, headlines read “Cat Litter Killer in Whales of the North.”

Our question is: Should we be blaming cats?

Merritt Clifton of *Animal People* magazine says: “Toxoplasmosis itself is very poorly understood, especially by people who try to blame cats for it, when it infects humans and most other species primarily through eating tainted meat.

The full life cycle of toxoplasmosis gondii has for about 50 years been widely believed to occur only in domestic cats, but it is now known to occur in any feline. However, toxoplasmosis gondii also occurs in many habitats with few if any felines. Why doesn't the full life cycle of toxoplasmosis gondii occur in other species? The simple answer is that it may, but we simply don't know about it yet.”

Researchers in Thailand found *T. gondii* in several species of rodents, despite the rarity of both domestic and wild felids and led them to state: “ [this] emphasizes the importance of rodents in maintaining T.gondii, and questions the involvement of other carnivores in the life cycle.”

Clifton cites an interesting article in *ProMed Archive* that anchovies could be the missing link between cats and sea mammals. Anchovies have been found to harbor toxoplasmosis and anchovies used to be the prime ingredient in cat food.

Some researchers have hypothesized “that migratory filter feeders, specifically northern anchovies (*Engraulis mordax*) and Pacific sardines (*Sardinops sagax*), are serving as biotic vectors for *T. gondii* within the marine environment. By filtering oocysts from seawater, these fishes could be transporting the oocysts from nearshore to pelagic environments.”

How You Can Help Make Positive Changes in the Lives of Stray and Outdoor Community Cats

ACR relies solely on the support of our valued members. Your support is all the cats have for a better life and helps stop the suffering. Your contributions save lives!

Matching Gifts

Many corporations offer matching gift programs, which can double or triple your gift Alley Cat Rescue. Speak to your human resources director to find out if your company will participate.

Monthly Donations

You can give ACR a recurring monthly donation on your credit card, which will ensure that our daily expenses are met and that we can continue to save lives. Monthly Giving helps ACR save money and thus we are able to spend more of our "fund-raising dollars" on the direct care of cats

Your love for all felines can live on...

Through a bequest to Alley Cat Rescue, you can help cats in need beyond this lifetime. This will ensure that your love for these animals will continue.

It can be a specified amount of cash or a gift of a designated asset such as property. It could be a gift of the “residuary estate” (what is left when all specific bequests are paid) or a share of the residuary estate.

You can use this language in your will:

“I give, devise, and bequeath to Alley Cat Rescue Inc., federal tax identification number 52-227-9100. Having its principle office at 3902 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood, MD or P.O. Box 585, Mt. Rainier MD the sum of \$_____ (specific amount or specific property or portion of estate) as a charitable contribution to be used for its general purposes to help stray, abandoned and outdoor cats.”

ACR's Mission Statement:
Alley Cat Rescue (ACR) works to protect cats on several levels: locally through rescue, rehabilitation and adoption of cats and nationally, through a network of Cat Action Teams. ACR is dedicated to the health, well-being, and welfare of all cats: domestic, stray, abandoned and feral. ACR also assists the international animal community.

Visit ACR Online
 www.saveacat.org
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 http://www.care2.com/c2c/group/ACR
 Earn money for Alley Cat Rescue by using the search engine "Goodsearch" www.goodsearch.com
 Search "Alley Cat Rescue (Official Page)" and join us on Facebook

Alley Cat Rescue Staff
 Louise Holton- President and Newsletter Publisher
 Kylie Riser- Editor and Executive Director
 Denise Hilton- Campaign Manager
 Crystal Phillips- Bookkeeper
 Maggie Funkhouser- Associate Editor

ACR'S VISION STATEMENT:
 The feral cat has often been cast in the role of villain. Because of this, they are subject to poisoning and killing. Feral cat advocates respect all animal life. While many so-called exotic and alien animals live in the U.S. we, as a caring and compassionate society, are honor-bound to use common sense, compassion and nonlethal management when controlling their populations.
 The over-development of land and the over-consumption of resources is causing far greater damage to the environment than any cats could ever do. Humans can easily reduce their impact on the earth's resources. To turn the cat into a scapegoat for our environmental ills is not only wrong, but it is a dangerous mistake, and could have dire consequences. ACR is committed to helping cats, wildlife, birds and the environment.

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I wish to help ACR's Compassion Fund with a one-time tax-deductible contribution of:

\$10__ \$20__ \$50__ \$100__ \$250 Other \$_____

I wish to make a **MONTHLY** donation of \$_____

Make Checks Payable to: Alley Cat Rescue Inc.

Please charge my contribution to my:

MasterCard VISA American Express Discover

Account number: _____

Expires: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

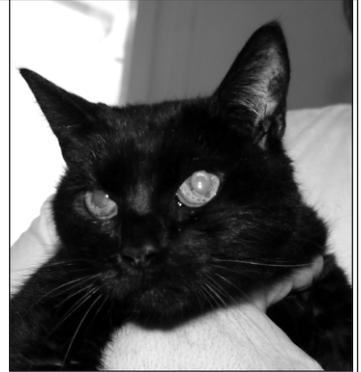
Phone: _____ Email: _____

CALL to ACTION: Want to do something important to help cats?
 If you hear about an issue with feral cats, use the resources in our Activist Packet, available on our website at www.saveacat.org/calltoaction.html to get the information you need to help!

A Tale of Two Kitties

by Kylie Riser

This winter, ACR took in two cats, Jazzie and Sheba, who were both abandoned at the Brentwood Animal Hospital (BAH). We work closely with BAH, and unfortunately, sometimes clients will bring in their cat to board, and then stop paying and never come and pick up the cat. In many situations like this, the animal hospital would be on their own to try to find these cats a new home, or have to scramble to find a rescue group to take them, or would even end up sending them to the government run shelters. Jazzie and Sheba are lucky that Brentwood Animal Hospital and Alley Cat Rescue are close partners, because these kitties are not going to be easy to find forever homes for, but ACR is up for the challenge.



Sheba started boarding the hospital because her family was supposed to be moving into a new apartment. However, after a few months, they stopped visiting and stopping paying her bill. Sheba is a beautiful black cat, but she is definitely what we lovingly refer to as a "diva". She only wants attention on her terms, and is not afraid to let you know that. She is 4 years old and healthy, so we need to find Sheba the right forever home.



Jazzie is also a black cat, and was boarding while her family went through some legal trouble. Jazzie is sweet as pie, and loves attention. However, finding Jazzie a forever home is also going to be a challenge because Jazzie is 17 years old.

These sweet cats are deserving of a second chance at forever homes, and we hope we can find the perfect places for them. In the meantime, they will live at the ACR office. (*Jazzie, top right, Sheba, bottom left*)



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