

For Immediate Release:

JUNE 6, 2008

Contact:

FRANCIE ISRAELI, frisraeli@johnadams.com or (202) 737-8400

ELIZABETH PAROWSKI, eparowski@alleycat.org or (240) 482-1984



7920 Norfolk Ave, Suite 600

Bethesda, MD 20814-2525

TEL: 240-482-1980

FAX: 240-482-1990

Email: media@alleycat.org

ALLEY CAT ALLIES INVESTIGATION EXPOSES DEADLY FATE OF CATS AT ILLINOIS ANIMAL SHELTERS

Over 60,000 cats killed in 2006; more than 17,000 others unaccounted for

BETHESDA — A preliminary investigation by Alley Cat Allies, the national advocate for stray and feral cats, revealed that animal pounds and shelters in Illinois have lost track of thousands of animals that pass through the system, and are routinely killing tens of thousands more.

Alley Cat Allies found that in 2006, more than 60,000 cats who entered animal pounds and shelters licensed by the state of Illinois were reported killed.

“These numbers are dreadful,” said Becky Robinson, president of Alley Cat Allies. “Illinois is one of only a handful of states with laws requiring shelters to record and track the animals they take in and their fates. According to our investigation in Illinois, more than half of the cats were reported killed, and another 17,000 can’t be accounted for at all. Clearly, the system is broken. The government agencies in charge of the shelter system aren’t doing their job.”

Alley Cat Allies released the preliminary results as part of the launch of the “Lives Count, Secrets Kill Campaign,” a national campaign aimed at publicly exposing and putting an end to the staggering numbers of cats killed in shelters each year.

“This institutional killing is the leading documented cause of cat death in the United States,” said Robinson. “A revolutionary change in shelter practice and policy is needed. We call on every state to pass laws requiring accountability and transparency for all animal shelters and facilities, with continual oversight and assessment. And we are advocating to end the killing of feral and stray cats, and to establish humane methods of care, such as affordable and accessible spay and neuter and Trap-Neuter-Return.”

Robinson noted that a recent survey conducted for Alley Cat Allies by Harris Interactive found 81 percent of Americans preferred to let outdoor cats live out their lives rather than have them caught and killed.

“It is time to lift the shroud that surrounds our animal control system and expose its failures. The public has a right to know how tax dollars and donations are being spent. It is time to repair this very broken system,” Robinson said.

###

About Alley Cat Allies

Alley Cat Allies is dedicated to ending the killing of cats and leading the movement for their humane care. Their web site is www.alleycat.org

**NEWS
RELEASE**