**Mission Statement**

Alley Cat Allies is dedicated to promoting and advocating for nonlethal methods to control and reduce cat populations.

**Vision Statement**

Alley Cat Allies is working toward the time when TNR and other nonlethal control measures for managing outdoor cat populations are accepted everywhere.
Writing Alley Cat Allies’ annual report is always a time for reflection, and this year we are reflecting on a year of solid progress. In every area of concern, across the nation and in our own backyard, 2004 was a year in which we scored important victories on behalf of stray and feral cats, and those who advocate for them. You will read the story of 2004 in the pages that follow, but on the next two pages we want to share with you three precedent-setting events that have had significance for everything we do.

In June 2004, Alley Cat Allies initiated a public/private partnership with the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH) and a local private shelter. We named the coalition DC Cat Assistance Team (DC CAT). Its purpose was twofold: first, to implement a pilot Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program in neighborhoods that did not have access to spay/neuter services; second, to prove that residents in those areas want the cats helped, not killed, and would sterilize all their cats—tame, stray, and feral—if given resources to do it.

DC CAT was a huge success. You can read the details and outcome on page 8. But more important than the number of cats treated is that we were able to change the way a key person in the DC DOH looks at feral cats, to persuade her to question the endless killing and accept the idea that TNR can work. For TNR to produce communitywide results, it must be endorsed by municipal agencies. We achieved this in the nation’s capital; we are helping other communities to do it as well.

In late 2003, faculty and students of The George Washington University Law School began a pro bono effort to analyze and improve animal welfare laws in the District of Columbia. This may be the first comprehensive review of local laws with proposals for change ever conducted by any organization, even law schools. After studying nine distinct animal populations in DC for more than a year, the project reported that the “most serious animal welfare problem in the District is animal overpopulation” and called upon the DC government to support Alley Cat Allies and other animal welfare organizations in making adequate spay/neuter facilities and TNR programs available to the people and animals most in need.*

The George Washington Univer-

What is a feral cat?

A feral cat is an unsocialized cat—a cat that was born to a feral mother and has never lived with a human family, or a house cat that strayed from home and, over time, has thrown off the effects of domestication and reverted to a wild state.

What is Trap-Neuter-Return?

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the humane, nonlethal method of feline population control that is more effective than trap-and-kill, and more reflective of a caring society.

What have we learned from 15 years of experience:

Coordinated efforts by public agencies working with private animal protection groups to implement high-volume spay/neuter and TNR are the only effective way to reduce stray and feral cat populations in both the short and long term.

Finally, this year we found ourselves working with the National Animal Control Association (NACA), the largest group representing animal control agencies in the United States. The magazine NACA News published a steady stream of articles from ACA and other experts on feral cat issues and TNR, providing vital information for NACA members.

ACA frequently hears from animal control officers who want to “stop killing cats just because you can’t touch them.” We help agencies that want to change but don’t have resources or even know where to start. We help them find ways to change local conditions. And we thank NACA for making our resources known to the larger animal control community.

The staff and volunteers of Alley Cat Allies covered a lot of ground in the past year, most of which is reported in the 2004 Year in Review. We could never have made so much progress without your support. As always, we send heartfelt gratitude to the tens of thousands of committed individuals and numerous foundations who support ACA programs and initiatives every day. It is deeply satisfying to know that, as we labor on behalf of cats, we are supported by an enlightened community.

Becky Robinson
National Director

Donna Wilcox
President, Board of Directors
ALLEY CAT ALLIES WAS FOUNDED IN 1990 as a national clearinghouse for information about feral cat populations and effective, nonlethal methods to reduce their numbers, including Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). In 1990, feral cats were a mystery to most people. Almost no one—not elected officials, not animal control agencies, shelter personnel, nor even the animal welfare community—understood the nature and behavior of feral cats, or that they were proliferating and being killed in every U.S. community.

Still, there were ordinary people with compassion toward hungry outdoor cats—cats they could not touch or bring into their homes, but whom they fed and sheltered while seeking ways to improve the cats’ lives. Specifically, they sought ways to get the cats sterilized and put a stop to the endless litters of kittens. A 1992 ACA survey of 1,000 caregivers revealed that 91 percent of those responding had spayed and neutered the feral cats they fed, often at great personal expense.

Alley Cat Allies set out to help those early caregivers and to put them in contact with each other. By connecting the caregivers, ACA built a network to assist people in implementing TNR, the one method we knew would help to end feline overpopulation. In 1993, these people were organized into the Feral Friends Network (FFN), a database of veterinary professionals and experienced caregivers who were willing to share their expertise with caregivers just starting out. The FFN today has 1,400 members in 46 states and 10 foreign countries.

Progress was slow in the early years. Concern about the lives of feral cats was an alien concept to much of the world. To begin educating the world, in 1994 ACA hosted “Focus on Ferals,” the first-ever national feral cat conference, with Roger Tabor, leading British naturalist, biologist, and authority on the domestic cat; and Jenny Remfry, veterinarian and pioneer of nonlethal feral cat control methods.

Still, early advocates often had to talk their way into animal welfare conferences and they were not always welcomed. At one early workshop, a leader in the movement at that time forbade ACA’s founders to “use the F word” (feral) at any point in their presentation. As late as 2000, a New York volunteer was
barred from a conference because organizers refused to allow discussion of feral cats. Undeterred, she stepped outside, opened the trunk of her car, and distributed TNR factsheets to a crowd that was hungry for the information.

Slowly, outdoor cats’ fortunes began to rise. Although some animal welfare leaders still avoided the issue, stray and feral cat populations continued to grow and entire communities could see that the traditional method of controlling cats—trapping and killing them—didn’t work, and that they needed to find something else. That something was low- or no-cost spay/neuter clinics treating feral cats communitywide. In 1998 ACA opened the first (and still the only) no-cost clinic for feral cats in the Washington, DC, area. Each monthly clinic treats 100 cats.

In 2000, ACA helped the Humane Society of Atlantic County (NJ) impose a moratorium on killing outdoor cats living on and under the Atlantic City boardwalk. We then worked with the public health department to stop the breeding and provide ongoing care through TNR. This program continues to benefit the Atlantic City boardwalk cats and nearly 40 million annual boardwalk visitors.

In 2001, Alley Cat Allies negotiated the first-ever government contract to establish TNR at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, in Virginia.

From the start, ACA has focused on educating those people whose actions control the fate of cats: animal control and shelter personnel, government officials, and the public at large. On October 16, 2001, ACA founded National Feral Cat Day (NFCD) as a day to express appreciations for the caregivers, veterinary professionals, and enlightened animal control agencies that make the world a safer, more humane place. NFCD grows larger each year and shines a light on the need for TNR and aggressive nonlethal control of feral cats in every community.

ACA has been privileged to help the following major city and regional feral cat programs organize and grow: Best Friends Animal Society, San Francisco SPCA, Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society, AzCATS, ChicagoLand Stray Cat Coalition, Friends of Ferals (Dallas), KittiCo Cat Rescue (Dallas), Humane Ohio, and Southern Animal Foundation (New Orleans).

Today, with solid information and assistance freely available through our website, from ACA’s Feral Friends Network, and from strong groups in many parts of the country, we have set a new course.

Trap-Neuter-Return is most effective when implemented throughout whole communities. This takes more than compassionate caregivers and veterinarians. It requires that public agencies and private organizations participate as well.

In 2004, ACA formed DC CAT, a public/private coalition with the District of Columbia Department of Health and a private local shelter. DC residents immediately welcomed this source of information and assistance. In nine months, DC CAT vaccinated, sterilized, and returned 954 tame, stray, and feral cats from 57 District neighborhoods. DC CAT proved that people in the nation’s capital do not want outdoor cats harmed and, if given the resources, will help to spay/neuter and care for all their neighborhood cats.
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Education is the key to achieving ACA’s goal of establishing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and other nonlethal control measures for managing outdoor cats as the norm everywhere. In past years, we concentrated on getting practical information—the how and why of TNR—to caregivers and veterinary professionals in the field. Today, we are reaching out to those who develop and carry out policies that control the lives—or deaths—of feral cats. Feral cat numbers come down and stay down only when ineffective, inhumane, expensive animal control policies in place for decades are replaced with effective, ethical, cost-conscious TNR. Toward this end, Alley Cat Allies accomplished the following in FY 04:

Outreach and Education

As the foremost expert on feral cat issues, Alley Cat Allies presents and exhibits at national and international conferences hosted by organizations on a broad spectrum of the animal welfare industry. Many groups are colleagues and share our principles; others are not sympathetic to our goals. Nevertheless, we continue to present the truth about feral cats and TNR.

- Florida Feral Cat Roundtables (feral cat advocates meeting with representatives of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and other anti-cat groups)
- Animal Care Expo 2004 – The Humane Society of the United States (Texas)
- Texas Animal Control Association
- National Association of Local Boards of Health (Colorado)
- National Animal Control Association Training Conference (Florida)
- Virginia Federation of Humane Societies
- International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (Warsaw, Poland)
- American Humane annual conference (California)

Advocacy

ACA provides consultation and support to communities where local or state policies unfavorable to feral cats and caregivers are being considered. Where necessary, ACA gives expert testimony or depositions. In extreme cases, ACA seeks legal redress. We have demonstrated that we will step in to defend feral cats whatever the odds. And although not every decision is a victory, we do not retreat.

- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Alley Cat Allies/Frank Hamilton v. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- American Veterinary Medical Association Animal Welfare Forum: Management of Abandoned and Feral Cats
Alley Cat Allies maintains leadership of the feral cat movement through continuous research and consultation with experts in the field. We call upon the foremost scientists and veterinarians to review our materials, and we actively participate with animal welfare groups representing cats and other species and with organizations working to better the legal status of all animals.

Research and Consultation

Alley Cat Allies is a clearinghouse for information about feral cats. We have more than 100 print and online feral cat documents available that we offer substantially free of charge to all who request them. Our principal concern is to ensure that outdoor cats spurred these people to change their communities. NFCD belongs to them.

In the 2003 NFCD Action Packs, ACA distributed 107,000 documents and factsheets, including the expanded NFCD Media and Event Guide, in 9,000 NFCD Action Packs and outreach mailings sent to advocates around the world. With assistance from a PETsMART Charities grant, we also printed 14,000 National Feral Cat Day posters, created by friend of cats and nationally syndicated columnist Phil Frank for display in the United States and abroad.

In October 2003, acting on advice in the NFCD Event and Media Guide, organizers in 23 states staged events, clinics, and workshops that were reported in local and state media, thereby spreading the word about TNR to ever larger audiences. Resolutions endorsing TNR were passed by seven state, county, or city jurisdictions.

Newsletters and Educational Tools
the information we distribute is current and accurate. To that end, ACA regularly updates its factsheets with new information. ACA’s newsletters and publications are known and respected internationally as a solid source of feral cat facts.

- Alley Cat Action
- Feral Cat Activist
- www.alleycat.org
- www.nationalferalcatday.org
- www.wildaboutcats.com
- www.dc-cat.org

Resources debuted or updated in FY 04:
- To Test or Not to Test: Is Testing for FeLV and FIV in Feral Cats Always Necessary? (Revised by Julie Levy, DVM, PhD, ACVIM)
- Glossary of Feral Cat Terms, a primer on feral cat issues
- Do you believe she deserves to live...even though she is wild? (A Wild About Cats! brochure)
- Why Trap-Neuter-Return Is the Solution to Feral Cat Overpopulation—And Trap-Neuter-Adopt Is Not
- Alley Cat Allies doorhangers: convenient tools to inform the neighbors about your TNR program
- DC Cat Assistance Team (DC CAT) pilot program TNR and spay/neuter materials
- www.alleycat.org
- www.nationalferalcatday.org
- www.wildaboutcats.com
- www.dc-cat.org

ON OCTOBER 16, 2003, Alley Cat Allies, the National Feral Cat Resource, celebrated National Feral Cat Day by announcing Wild About Cats!, a comprehensive education campaign to make accurate information about feral cats available to state and local government officials and policymakers, the media, and the public at large.

Although the history and nature of the cat is well documented, commonly held misperceptions often lead to simplistic, inhumane, and always ineffective attempts to remove feral cats from the environment.

For decades, traditional approaches to feral cat control have failed to have any lasting effect on reducing their numbers, and thousands of communities now face a monumental task in trying to get control of a growing outdoor cat population. They must have dependable information based on solid, scientific evidence and practical experience.

Best Friends Animal Society endorsed Wild About Cats! as a vital source of information. “Killing feral cats is as pointless as was killing homeless pets,” says Michael Mountain, president of Best Friends. “Fifteen years ago, 17 million dogs and cats were killed in shelters every year. As soon as we began to replace killing with intensive spay/neuter and adoption, that number began to drop, and is now less than 5 million.”

“Society has studied many feral and wild species—not only the obvious facts of daily existence, but their origins, nature, and hereditary behaviors,” adds Becky Robinson, Alley Cat Allies national director. “From this, we learned how best to preserve or reduce their numbers. We must and can apply the same process to feral cats.”

“Knowledge and truth are powerful weapons for change,” says Donna Wilcox, Alley Cat Allies executive director. “Wild About Cats! will help communities to develop sane, sensible, and most of all effective alternatives to deal with feline overpopulation. And the sooner governments and agencies commit resources to programs that work, the sooner we will bring down the numbers of feral cats in the U.S.”
ACA Spay/Neuter Programs in Metropolitan Washington, DC

Hands-on assistance with cats is vital because our country is still experiencing an overpopulation explosion. Direct care has always been an important component of ACA’s work. Our direct care programs are models for TNR groups throughout the country and produce solid, firsthand evidence and statistics about the effectiveness of TNR, evidence that is used in presentations worldwide.

■ DC CAT (DC Cat Assistance Team)—DC CAT was formed in June 2004 as a public/private coalition of Alley Cat Allies, the DC Department of Health, and the Washington Animal Rescue League. DC CAT was a pilot program to implement TNR in District of Columbia neighborhoods where residents and feral cats had never been helped. The goal was to gather solid evidence that TNR reduces shelter intake of cats and complaint calls about cats, and increases the number of vaccinated feral cats living in the District.

In nine months, DC CAT volunteers went into 57 DC neighborhoods and identified and trapped 142 feral cat colonies. They helped 250 residents spay or neuter 954 cats at DC CAT clinics, including one precedent-setting event at which 512 tame, stray, and feral cats were treated in two days. We take pride in these numbers, but greater pride in proving once again that local residents do not want stray and feral cats killed. They want to help the cats.

■ Northern Virginia Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Clinic—Alley Cat Allies established this monthly clinic in 1997 and supports and oversees its operation today. At the close of FY 04, the Northern Virginia clinic had vaccinated and sterilized 3,798 cats. In that year alone, the clinic treated 941 cats from 22 counties in 3 states and the District of Columbia.
SAVING PRIVATE HAMMER

IN JANUARY 2004, ACA received an e-mail plea from SSG Rick Bousfield stationed in Iraq. Bousfield’s unit was scheduled to return to the United States and wanted to bring all members with them, including Private First Class Hammer, a feral kitten who had wandered into their tents and their hearts while they served our country overseas. Hammer was a steady morale booster for our servicemen and -women far from home, even bringing joy to wounded military and civilian personnel on secret visits to a combat support hospital. In a land where hostilities continue to rage, Bousfield and other unit members frequently came under mortar attack. When the firing began, Hammer would run to the bunkers, where the nearest soldier would scoop the kitten inside his body armor to wait out the attack in safety.

Bousfield had discovered that logistics made it impossible for him and for dozens of other military personnel to bring home the loyal friends who had provided them with comfort and companionship while serving in Iraq. If left behind, Private Hammer would have become a casualty of war.

Bousfield wrote: “[Hammer] ... has been quite a morale booster for us because we consider him one of our own troops...if there was a way that ACA could help get Hammer back to the States, it would be a wonderful boost for the men to see the cat who has won their hearts free—like the Iraqi people.”

Bousfield’s plea “brought the war home for us,” said ACA National Director Becky Robinson. “This was a soldier fighting in Iraq writing to us. How could we say no?” she said. “ACA had never done anything like this, but the moment we finished reading Rick’s e-mail, it was a given that we were going to figure out how to do this.”

Alley Cat Allies sent an urgent appeal to colleague organizations and supporters around the world to help change the logistics and bring Private Hammer home.

With assistance from Military Mascots, Pets Unlimited (San Francisco, CA), Island Cat Resources and Adoption (Alameda, CA), Duaij Al-Anzi International Veterinary Hospital (Kuwait), Merry Bates, Lisa Camasi, Valerie Crowell, and members of the U.S. military, and with support from ACA donors, Pfc. Hammer and SSG Rick were reunited at Denver International Airport in early April 2004.

ACA Spay/Neuter Assistance on the Road

As the foremost experts on feral cats, ACA staff frequently present information at major conferences and workshops in this country and abroad. We often discover a need in these locations (frequently hotels) for immediate assistance with TNR for a local colony. ACA staff often travel with humane box traps to demonstrate in workshops. On many occasions, the traps have been put to immediate use at the conference location.

ACA also provides financial assistance to groups organizing TNR programs in other countries. In FY 04, ACA awarded grants to

- Animal Balance spay/neuter project in the Galapagos Islands
- Spay Israel
- Sosyal Sorumluluk Egitim Dernegi, Istanbul, Turkey
- Asociatia Animed Arad, Romania
- Natura-Mostenire Pentru Viitor, Romania
Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2004

In FY 2004, Alley Cat Allies’ donor base increased by 6 percent to 65,000. Our donors demonstrated their strong commitment to our mission by entrusting ACA with $2.3 million. Nearly 80 percent of funds were used for program activities (77.97%), with 15 percent going for development and 6.53 percent for management and general expenses, including salaries. Diligent management, efficient operations, and ongoing review of strategic priorities all help to ensure that ACA makes maximum progress toward achieving our goals. ACA donors and supporters have proven their long-term commitment to protecting feral cats and their habitats, which enhances life for us all.

ALLEY CAT ALLIES, INC.

Statements of Financial Position
For the Years Ended July 31, 2004 and 2003

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<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,710,443</td>
<td>$1,504,271</td>
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| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS |            |            |
| Current Liabilities        |            |            |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | $65,213 | $92,566 |
| Current portion of annuity payable | 1,521  | 1,521  |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | 66,734 | 94,087 |
| Long-term Liabilities      |            |            |
| Annuity payable, net of current portion | 8,974  | 10,495  |
| **Total Liabilities**      | 75,708     | 104,582    |
| Net Assets                 |            |            |
| Unrestricted               | 1,397,564  | 1,072,934  |
| Temporarily restricted      | 237,171    | 326,755    |
| **Total Net Assets**       | 1,634,735  | 1,399,689  |
| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | $1,710,443 | $1,504,271 |
## Change in Unrestricted Net Assets

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<td>Legacies and bequests</td>
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<td>Net assets released from timing restrictions</td>
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<td>Net realized and unrealized gain on investments</td>
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## Expenses

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<td>Direct care</td>
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## Change in Unrestricted Net Assets

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## Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

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<td>Federated and nonfederated campaigns</td>
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<td>Legacies and bequests</td>
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<td>Net assets released from timing restrictions</td>
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<td><strong>Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</strong></td>
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## Total Change in Net Assets

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<td><strong>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets, End of Year</strong></td>
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This is a partial presentation of the audited financial statements of Alley Cat Allies, Inc. The statement of cash flows, functional expenses and footnotes are pertinent components of the complete set of financial statements. The entire audited financial statements are available upon request.
WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK

The Cat-alyist Society Monthly Giving Program

By joining our monthly giving program, the Cat-alyist Society, you can make life better for stray and feral cats every day. Members of the Cat-alyist Society support ACA by ensuring that the resources we need for our ongoing programs are always available. Your monthly gift, via credit card or electronic funds transfer, enables us to respond quickly when feral cats and kittens are in peril.

Leave a Gift to Alley Cat Allies in Your Will or Living Trust

By including Alley Cat Allies in your will or in a living trust, you create a powerful legacy that will protect stray and feral cats for years to come. Living trusts eliminate the need for an often lengthy and expensive probate process. Using a living trust also can help ensure the proper protection and distribution of your estate in the event you become incapacitated, as well as after your lifetime.

Tribute and Memorial Gifts

Honor a special person or animal companion by making a Tribute Gift in his or her name to Alley Cat Allies. A Tribute Gift will help you celebrate those whose memories fill your heart or whose presence fill your life. Your honoree will be notified of your contribution with a personal card from Alley Cat Allies and will receive a complimentary subscription to our quarterly newsletter, Alley Cat Action, for one year.

Few things are more difficult than losing a beloved companion, whether human or animal. Now you can honor the memory of your loved one (or someone else’s) by helping a cat or kitten who needs a friend. With a Memorial Gift, Alley Cat Allies will send a sympathy card to the person you designate, noting that a special gift was made in remembrance.

Should you wish to make a more lasting and public gesture, a gift of $500 or more entitles you to an engraved memorial or tribute plaque honoring your loved one. The inscribed plaque will be installed on the memorial wall of our headquarters’ conference center.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Giving stocks and bonds to help Alley Cat Allies fund programs can dramatically reduce your tax bill while helping us to improve the lives of stray and feral cats.

Workplace Campaigns

Alley Cat Allies has joined Animal Funds of America (AFA) to offer you a simple and efficient way to help feral cats through your workplace giving program. AFA is a federation of the nation’s leading organizations that protect and advocate for animals of all kinds. AFA provides you with the opportunity to designate a portion of your paycheck to Alley Cat Allies.

For more information about the many ways you can help ACA continue to make the world a better place for stray and feral cats, please contact Alley Cat Allies Development Director Elise Ravenscroft at 240-482-1983 or by e-mail at eravenscroft@alleycat.org.

Help Alley Cat Allies Change the World

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALLEY CAT ALLIES help stray and feral cats live longer, healthier lives without reproducing by giving us the resources we need to assist legions of compassionate people throughout North America who practice Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). Your support also enables us to demonstrate the benefits of TNR to policymakers at all levels of public and private service and to make the world a safer, healthier place for outdoor cats everywhere.

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Jane Abling
Benita L. Auge
(In memory of Raggedy Andy)
Elaine W. Bass
Zina Berman
Lela Bishop
Mary Colbert
Debby Giblin
(In memory of Black Beauty)
Lori Gilmore
Elaine Gismondi
(In memory of Mauser, Tinysker, Moonlight Pearl, Kitty Charming, Huggie Boy, Pussylla, Ralphie, and Snow Flake)
Carolyn Gruber
Elizabeth Haak
Jean A. Helt Trust
Margaret Hodges
Laurie Johnston
Patricia E. Jones
Susan Keiraley, PhD
(In memory of Shadow, Willow, Toby, and Pierre Keiraley)
Caroline Kimple
(In memory of all the cats I have loved)
Ronnie Krueger
Marie A. Laplaca
(In memory of Holley, Whitey, and Yata)
Barbara L. Lopez
Regina P. Lund
Maria Ann Marr
Eleanor W. McCluskey
Cindy Pu
(In memory of Mytyl Glomboske)
Sandra Rakestraw
Miss Marjorie R. Reissmann
Beverly J. Rodgers
Margaret (Peter) Seneshen
Judith S. Smith
Pat Spinosa
(In memory of forgotten felines everywhere)
Faye R. Strome
(In memory of Tommy, Arthur, and Priss Ann, beloved feline companions)
Dottie Weaver
Laura Weickert
Another 18 Forget Me Not Legacy Society members asked to remain anonymous.