

ALLEY CAT ACTION

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter • www.alleycat.org • WINTER 2017

For Alley Cat Allies' Over 600,000 Supporters and Activists Across the Nation and Around the World



2016: A YEAR OF AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

Cats saved. Laws changed. Shelters transformed. Communities strengthened. Alley Cat Allies worked hard throughout 2016 for all cats in all communities.

“The new year is a time of reflection—and I’m thrilled to report that 2016 was our best year yet,” said Becky Robinson, president and founder. “Alley Cat Allies continued to lead the movement to protect cats’ lives, to champion humane policies, and to prove that Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) works.”

Just this year, we directly helped over 30 municipalities pass TNR ordinances, effected change for cats in 20 countries and all 50 states, and provided guidance on cats to more than 11,000 people. Our lifesaving efforts will continue to protect countless cats for years to come.



Community cats form close bonds within their colonies. Tiki, Checkers, and Goldie live in New Jersey.

Your support allowed us to act on behalf of cats every day of the year. In 2016, we made a difference for cats’ lives by:

Changing communities for cats.

Alley Cat Allies created more feline-friendly communities across the nation by providing training in humane education and programs to shelters and animal welfare organizations. We also continued to grow our Feral Friends Network in 2016, adding more than 100 new members. We now have Feral Friends in all 50 states and 31 different countries.

Empowering people to make a difference for cats.

Alley Cat Allies is committed to reaching as many people as possible to save cats’ lives. In 2016, we launched our new user-friendly website, which connects people with experts and provides the resources needed to start TNR programs, advocate, care for community cats, and much more. We had more than two million visitors in 2016!

(continued on page 3)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking to the past to inspire our future

I'm inspired by everything we accomplished together in 2016! Our innovative outreach and collaborative efforts are having an impact—more communities are embracing lifesaving programs like spay and neuter, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), and humane education.

It's amazing to see that time after time people choose to protect cats rather than support the endless, cruel cycle of catch and kill followed by too many of our animal control agencies. This would not have been possible without your support, and I can't thank you enough.

But we need your help now more than ever to save cats' lives. Cats are being vilified in the media as "cuddly killers," and new calls are being made to remove all cats from our landscape "by any means necessary."

This misinformation could cost millions of cats their lives. On page 5, you'll find out how myths about cats can be deadly for them—and how you have the power to set the record straight.



You know the truth: Cats are not a threat to wildlife or public health. Please give cats your voice—Join our Share the Truth About Cats Campaign today!

For the cats,

Becky Robinson, President and Founder

Connect with me online



facebook.com/ACAPresident



instagram.com/FeralBecky



twitter.com/FeralBecky



ALLEY CAT ACTION, Volume 27, Issue #2, WINTER 2017

7920 Norfolk Ave., Suite 600 • Bethesda, MD 20814-2525
Tel: 240-482-1980 • Fax: 240-482-1990
www.alleycat.org

PRESIDENT: Becky Robinson VICE PRESIDENT: Donna Wilcox
BOARD MEMBERS: Karyen Chu, PhD; Irina Dline; Rachel Gorlin;
Patricia E. Kauffman; Dina Paxenos; Becky Robinson; Donna Wilcox

© 2017 ALLEY CAT ALLIES

All rights reserved. We may make this material available for use by other groups, but none of it may be reproduced in any format without specific written permission from Alley Cat Allies.

Alley Cat Allies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and tax-exempt organization. Alley Cat Allies' federal employer ID number is 52-1742079, and our CFC number is 10964. All contributions, donations, and gifts are tax deductible, as allowed by law.

It is Alley Cat Allies' practice to exchange the names of our donors with other charities that share our values. We do this in order to both expand our donor base and spread our mission and to support those charities that we feel are working toward the good of animals and our community. Please notify us if you would prefer that we not share your name. We would be happy to remove your information from our exchange list.



Alley Cat Allies is proud to have earned the highest rating of four stars from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most respected charity evaluator. Join us and our more than 600,000 supporters at www.alleycat.org.



OUR MISSION: To transform and develop communities to protect and improve the lives of cats.

OUR GOALS: 1) Reform public policies and institutions to serve the best interests of cats; 2) Expand and promote cat care; 3) Increase understanding of cats to change attitudes and eliminate misconceptions.

2016: A YEAR OF AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS ... (continued from page 1)

Confronting cruelty against cats. Alley Cat Allies was involved in the case against Kristen Lindsey—the Texas veterinarian who killed a cat named Tiger by shooting an arrow through his head. From the start, we pushed for Lindsey’s license to be permanently revoked. Although her license was only fully suspended for one year, we will continue to seek justice for Tiger and fight against animal cruelty.

Reaching cat advocates around the world. Cat caregivers speak all languages, and we want to reach as many as possible. Last year, we supported our Spanish-speaking caregivers with a new webinar and additional resources provided in Spanish. With just two sessions of the Spanish webinar presented in 2016, we had close to 100 registrants—and 143 total views of the recorded program.

“We know that 2017 will bring new challenges, new goals, and more cats to save,” said Becky Robinson, President and Founder. “Together, we can continue to save lives and change how entire communities care for cats.”

Helping cats displaced by flooding in Louisiana.

Alley Cat Allies was one of the first organizations in the nation to provide direct assistance to local disaster support and relief efforts after Baton Rouge and much of southern Louisiana were left devastated by extreme flooding in August. We have continued to support on-the-ground efforts to save cats’ lives (learn more on page 4).



A community cat survivor from Denham Springs, Louisiana.



Yosemite, Denali, Shenandoah, and Acadia were found during our TNR project in Maryland. They, along with other cats and kittens, are available for adoption at www.alleycat.org/Adopt.

Protecting the lives of cats. Alley Cat Allies is fighting for cats, helping communities abolish dangerous laws and advocating for humane legislation. Last year, we filed an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief supporting the New York Parks Department when it was sued for allegedly violating the Endangered Species Act by allowing cats to live in Jones Beach State Park. We will continue to give cats a voice in court and push for positive laws that protect cats.

Celebrating National Feral Cat Day®. You helped us make National Feral Cat Day 2016 the biggest ever—with 1,341 actions in all 50 U.S. states and 19 countries. We couldn’t be more proud of the thousands of compassionate people who stood up to protect *all cats in all communities!* Alley Cat Allies celebrated by carrying out a TNR project with a community in Hyattsville, MD. Check out our video on the project at www.alleycat.org/TNRStories.

These are just a few of our accomplishments and achievements in 2016. It truly was an inspiring year—and we have your generosity to thank for it. But there are countless cats who still need us. With your continued support, our efforts to protect cats will be even more far-reaching and successful in 2017. 🐾



IN YOUR BACKYARD

With your support, Alley Cat Allies is bringing humane education and lifesaving programs for cats to communities across the nation.

LA Louisiana—Providing Accessible Spay and Neuter

With support from Alley Cat Allies, the Feral Cat Consortium and four other local organizations provided cat spay and neuter surgeries in four parishes in southern Louisiana—areas that were hit hard by extreme flooding in August 2016. Last year, our grant allowed them to spay and neuter nearly 1,000 cats.

“We’re grateful to our friends at Alley Cat Allies for funding Feline Frenzy—a series of spay/neuter clinic events in and around Madisonville—during the months of November and December,” said Wendy Guidry, president of the Feral Cat Consortium. “Thanks to their support, we’re saving lives in Louisiana!”



Summer Beasley, Feline Frenzy’s youngest volunteer, returns a neutered cat to his outdoor home thanks to support from Alley Cat Allies.

VA Virginia—Building Bridges to Create Community Change

With help from our Associate Director of Animal Shelter and Animal Control Engagement Alice Burton, the Rockbridge SPCA is now working with the Lynchburg Humane Society to implement TNR in Rockbridge County. It kicked off its program last October by sponsoring a National Feral Cat Day spay and neuter clinic for 60 cats.

Now, the Rockbridge SPCA is continuing its lifesaving work by transporting cats to the Lynchburg Humane Society (which is an hour away!) to be neutered and returned. Its also educating the public, financially sponsoring TNR in its community, and working with local cat advocates to save even more cats. We’re proud of the leaders of these communities.

CA California—Making Friends and Saving Cats

Last year, Daniel Lopez Brena, one of our outreach specialists, traveled to California to empower people to protect cats. Daniel met with the staff of Orange County Animal Care, who partnered with Cats in Need, to TNR more than 6,000 cats in just three years. He also met with the Mary S. Roberts Clinic in Riverside and the San Diego Humane Society—both of which have spay/neuter and adoption programs. Daniel talked with them about their TNR experience, how to network for success, and how to better connect with their communities and governments to save more cats.

“Since implementing TNR in their communities, these organizations now have more time to work on other programs like community outreach, humane education, and adoption,” said Daniel. “It was wonderful to meet with so many people dedicated to giving cats a great, safe, and healthy life.” 

ASK THE EXPERT



Rebekah DeHaven is our senior attorney and director of Humane Law and Policy. She also directs the Community Programs and Support Team in their engagement with advocates, policy makers, veterinarians, and shelters.

Q. How can I best advocate for positive change for cats?

There are many ways you can support change in your community to make it a better place for cats. The best way to start is by educating yourself. Legislators begin anew in the new year, which means now is a great time to learn your community's stance on TNR and the humane treatment of cats. This is also the best time to encourage your legislators to adopt humane policies. Learn more at www.alleycat.org/AdvocacyToolkit.

Q. How will Alley Cat Allies transform communities for cats in 2017?

One of our goals for 2017 is to correct dangerous misconceptions about cats. Cats are not a major threat to wildlife or public health, but many people believe they are—and it has cost millions of cats their lives. We are taking action to stop the killing by sharing the real truth.

Alley Cat Allies is spreading this message across the country. With your help, we can take it farther than ever and save countless cats' lives! 

SHARE THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS

Take Action: Help Set the Record Straight

While millions of cats share our homes, millions more make their homes outdoors. Cats have always lived outside. But cats and their place in the environment have long been misunderstood.

This is the truth: Cats are not the #1 threat to wildlife or the environment, and they are not a threat to public health.

We are now calling on you—and everyone who cares about all animals—to share the truth. By setting the record straight, you can help stop the killing and save cats' lives. Join us and take action at alleycat.org/TruthAboutCats.



BEAT THE HEAT: SPAY AND NEUTER CATS WHEN THEY WEIGH TWO POUNDS

Spring is almost here, which means female cats are about to go into heat. Now is the best time to spay and neuter your cats to get ahead of "kitten season" (which starts as early as March!). Don't forget: kittens can be safely spayed or neutered at two months old, or as soon as they weigh two pounds.

Beat the heat by spaying or neutering your own pet or community cats now! You can also ask your veterinarian to support early-age spay and neuter.

At just over 2 pounds, Duchess can now be spayed or neutered.



In loving memory of
Helen and Audrie,
who loved all creatures
great and small.

To honor the memory
of Darlene, the perfect
cat. A joy to all who
knew her.

Paul Dobransky,
beloved caregiver of
A.C. Boardwalk Cats.
We'll never forget you.

HALL OF REMEMBRANCE

These are just a few of the tribute plaques that honor Alley Cat Allies' donors and their beloved animals in our Hall of Remembrance. The custom-made plaques were created and hung in our lobby through the generosity of their families and friends.

Our tribute plaques are a meaningful way to commemorate animals and those who love them. Not only do they provide a special way to celebrate a loved one's life and legacy, they also help sustain and support our lifesaving work for cats.

If you would like to add a loved one's name with a message and picture to our Hall of Remembrance, please contact our Development Team at **1-866-309-6207** or online at donate@alleycat.org for more information.



Cats and kittens (like Berkeley, above) bring us so much joy. Tribute plaques can be made to honor the lives of cats and cat lovers alike.

HISSES AND PURRS

The stories of those who deserve to be celebrated...and scorned.



PURRS to **New York** for authorizing veterinarians to provide free spay and neuter services in lieu of self-instructional course work for continuing education requirements.



HISSES to the city of **Raleigh, NC**, where animal control is picking up neutered and vaccinated community cats, despite the county having a TNR ordinance.



HISSES to **Marion County, SC**, where 14 shelter cats were allegedly shot and killed by a county employee.



PURRS to **Whiskers & Tails Rescue Foundation** in **Chicago, IL**, for helping seek justice for Driver, a cat who suffered severe burns when a man intentionally poured boiling water on him.

SAVE A CAT WITH A MOUSE

With just a few clicks, you can make a difference in cats' lives and help transform communities. Here are some online resources to help you on your way:



CONNECT—Join us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. www.alleycat.org/SocialNetworking



LEARN—Advocate for cats in your community. www.alleycat.org/CommunityChange



DONATE—Support cats nationwide. www.alleycat.org/Donate



TAKE ACTION—Receive our *FeralPower!* action alerts and other emails. www.alleycat.org/SignUp