

ALLEY CAT ACTION

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter • alleycat.org • FALL 2017

For Alley Cat Allies' Over 650,000 Supporters and Activists Across the Nation and Around the World



Alley Cat Allies is the champion for the humane treatment of all cats.

must stand together and speak out for laws that protect cats. Sign up today to receive our action alerts at alleycat.org/SignUp, and you'll be notified when your support is needed to contact lawmakers and push for important protections. Here are a few of the state bills we'll be working to make law in the coming year:



No other method of visible identification for community cats has proved to be as safe or as effective as eartipping.

that shelters can adopt Return-to-Field programs, which means officers can take community cats back to their homes. We urged lawmakers to pass this bill in 2017, and we're hoping they will in the upcoming session. Delaware residents: Watch for our action alert in the new year!

GET READY TO FIGHT FOR HUMANE LAWS

What could be more important than fighting for laws that protect cats? Thanks to your support, 2017 has been a great year for pro-cat laws, and we're already preparing to continue that winning streak in 2018! State legislatures are getting ready for new sessions that begin in January, and we're gearing up to support bills that have cats' best interests at heart. To win this fight, we need your voice. We

TNR Protections

Delaware House Bill 235 explicitly codifies protections for community cats by defining terms like eartip, the universal sign of a spayed or neutered community cat that involves the painless removal of the very tip of a cat's left ear. This bill will also benefit caregivers by defining "free-roaming cat caretaker" so there's no question that people can carry out Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and look after cats. It also makes clear

GLOBAL CAT DAY: JOIN THE MOVEMENT



Our inaugural Global Cat Day on October 16 inspired people around the world to raise awareness and grow the movement to protect all cats. Alley Cat Allies sought 100,000 pledges from people committed to work for humane community cat policies where they live.

Global Cat Day evolved from National Feral Cat Day as our lifesaving work continues to extend beyond the United States. Your voice is a powerful tool that has helped us come so far, but too many governments still promote cruel practices and perpetuate myths about community cats. We must continue our work to change that.

Keep the momentum going and sign our pledge! Learn more at globalcatday.org.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We dedicate this advocacy issue to our longtime friend AnnaBell Washburn, an early pioneer of the Trap-Neuter-Return movement in the U.S. who passed recently. Her courage and compassion continue to be an inspiration to us.



AnnaBell Washburn

This year, we're proud to debut Global Cat Day (see page 1) and grow our movement to protect cats worldwide. As you know, Global Cat Day evolved from National Feral Cat Day, where people carried out events with the same purpose: to get more advocates to join our movement and speak out in the fight to defend cats. Sign our pledge on globalcatday.org, then ask your neighbors, relatives, colleagues, and others to connect with us as we raise our voices for cats year-round.

At Alley Cat Allies, we know you are the most powerful voice for change. Thanks to your actions, pro-cat bills in Connecticut, Maryland, and Nevada have been voted into law. To help us fight in other states, turn to page 5 for our updated Alley Cat Allies' Advocacy Toolkit. And stand with us against animal cruelty. Learn how to take action, also on page 5.



Thank you, as always, for your compassion and determination.

For the cats,

Becky Robinson, President and Founder

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ALLEY CAT ACTION, Volume 28, Issue #1, FALL 2017

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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 650,000 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.

Create a Spay and Neuter Program

Tennessee House Bill 1035/Senate Bill 122 establishes a state spay and neuter program for dogs and cats. The program has two main components: public education and a fund to reimburse cities and counties for low-cost spay and neuter services, making such surgeries for cats more affordable in the state. We supported this effort earlier this year. When this bill is scheduled for a hearing, we will be contacting Tennesseans to voice their support.




Sending letters and petitions directly to your elected officials, decision makers, and others can protect and improve the lives of cats. Visit our Action Center today to see how you can help!

Register Offenders

Washington Senate Bill 5804 would help protect animals in the state by creating a registry of people who have been convicted of animal abuse. This list would be available to law enforcement, animal shelters, veterinarians, and others, to help ensure that animals don't fall into the hands of these abusers. We've stated our support for this measure in a letter, and we will urge Washington residents to speak up as well, once the bill is scheduled for a hearing.

When you act to support bills, it pays off! Here are just a few of our successes that you made possible earlier this year:

- In Connecticut, a bill was passed to help ensure the well-being of cats and other animals by requiring animal shelters to register with the state.
- In Maryland, a law was passed that will increase state oversight of animal shelters.
- In Nevada, a bill that makes it clear that TNR is legal—and that TNR isn't abandonment—was passed.

That's not all! Read more at alleycat.org/2017Victories. And check out our current alerts at alleycat.org/ActionCenter. 



ASK THE EXPERT: MOLLY ARMUS, STAFF ATTORNEY

Q. My town's local laws interfere with Trap-Neuter-Return. What can I do to try and change them?

A. Unfortunately, some communities still have outdated laws that can get in the way of TNR. But thanks to people like you, we work to get these policies and laws amended. Read on for problems that can result from these laws, and what you can do to change them.

No Roaming Allowed

Community cats who are free-roaming, whether owned or unowned, could be impounded and killed when ordinances make it illegal for cats to be at large. This ban must be removed.

Feeding Bans

Feeding bans that punish caregivers for feeding community cats are ineffective, cruel, and they must be abolished. Here's why: Caregivers will stay away




You are the cats' most powerful advocate in your own community.

for fear of being caught, fewer cats will be spayed and neutered, and the population will continue to grow.

What You Can Do

First, know that embracing Trap-Neuter-Return is the norm today! More than 650 communities have laws and policies supporting

TNR, and thousands more welcome the TNR efforts of volunteers just like you.

To change your community's laws, contact your local leaders about your concerns. Use facts or data to support your language to update the animal control code. Read our new Guide to Advocating for Cats, available online at alleycat.org/AdvocacyGuide. 

PROFILES IN COMPASSION

KRISTIN STANLEY TURNS TO ALLEY CAT ALLIES TO TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES



Kristin Stanley's commitment to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) began with a phone call nearly 15 years ago to Alley Cat Allies. She had been feeding a colony of 29 cats behind a local restaurant in San Angelo, Texas, in 2003, and found that many of them were not neutered.

She contacted us and, guided by our expertise, she recruited her friends to help trap the entire colony so they could be spayed and neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped. Just last December, she adopted the colony's last remaining member.

"I made a commitment to these cats," she said. "They deserve a chance to live happy, healthy lives. They deserve our respect and compassion."

Over the past decade, Kristin has maintained multiple colonies around the city and even saved community cats at Angelo State University (ASU). In 2011, she learned of ASU's plan to remove their resident community cats. Kristin connected with faculty and staff, a local nonprofit called Critter Shack Rescue, and community members. Together, they formed the ASU Cat Coalition, and their proposed TNR program was approved. In just one year, the coalition reduced the cat population on campus by more than 50 percent. To date, the ASU Cat Coalition has cared for over 177 cats, helped 83 kittens and cats find forever homes, and created a community of educated students and staff who care for the cats.

Earlier this year, Kristin once again reached out to Alley Cat Allies after she learned that the local shelter director was pursuing mandatory registration of community cats—a dangerous law for cats.



Kristin Stanley feeds cats who went through TNR after consulting with Alley Cat Allies.

Kristin and our staff attorney Molly Armus educated the San Angelo City Council on how this proposal would drive away caregivers, cost the city money, and endanger the cats. The city listened, and the proposal was dropped.

Because of her dedication, Kristin was asked to serve as a community cat expert on a committee that strives to create more humane and effective procedures at the local shelter. Kristin's goal is to implement a city-wide program to conduct TNR and keep community cats out of the shelter.

"In just the last few years, there have been many more people in our community who want to help and who care about outdoor cats," said Kristin. "I have hope for the cats' future." 🌍

PRESSING FOR STRONGER ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS

Serial Cat Killer on the Loose. Animal Cruelty Charges Dropped. These are just a few of the heart-wrenching headlines we see in the news all too often. What's also disturbing is that many of the perpetrators walk away with little or no punishment.

As a national organization at the forefront of advancing animal rights and protecting cats, Alley Cat Allies monitors cruelty cases around the country. So far in 2017, our Humane Law & Policy Team has sent letters of support for 25 bills aimed at strengthening animal cruelty laws, and launched action alerts for three of them.

Yet, unfortunately, cruelty can happen right at our doorstep. Three of our beloved New Jersey Boardwalk Cats—Rocky, Louie, and Emily—were killed in March. After surveillance photos pinpointed three suspects, we offered a reward and are working closely with the Atlantic City Police Department as they investigate the case.

“This cruelty must be taken seriously, and the guilty parties should be punished to the full extent of the law,” said Alley Cat Allies President and Founder Becky Robinson. “We’ll continue to work with the police to help make it happen.”



Pictured above is Emily, one of the Boardwalk Cats who was killed in March.

Sadly, many police departments fail to adequately investigate and prosecute animal cruelty reports. The relatively few convictions that do occur usually stipulate terms so lenient that we wonder if they deter future offenses at all.



Anti-cruelty laws protect every cat in the United States, regardless of whether the cat is a pet, stray, or community cat.

Remember Kristen Lindsey, the veterinarian who used a bow and arrow to kill her neighbor's cat, Tiger, in 2015? Despite that she violated her veterinarian's oath, her license was merely suspended for one year. After that, she'll be allowed to practice under supervision for the next four years. She is appealing that punishment.

As you know, Alley Cat Allies has kept supporters updated on developments, held a vigil in Tiger's honor, attended Lindsey's hearing, and pushed for the harshest possible punishment.

With help from you, our devoted supporters, we continue to work to educate communities, lawmakers, and courts about the most effective anti-cruelty laws. We offer rewards to bolster investigations and advocate for the harshest punishments for animal abusers. This month [October 2017], we're offering, at no cost, a webinar with Calley Gerber, founder of the Gerber Animal Law Center in North Carolina, to educate the public on the state of cruelty laws and how citizens can make positive change.

Our most powerful force for change is you, our compassionate supporters who defend progressive laws and the animals who deserve justice. Stand with us against animal cruelty and sign our pledge at alleycat.org/AntiCrueltyPledge. Go to alleycat.org/ActionCenter and watch for ways to take action in your state. 



Speak Up for Cats

Learn how to lobby for cat-friendly laws in your community with Alley Cat Allies' Advocacy Toolkit! Our newly revised toolkit will prepare you to push for humane laws and policies for cats. Learn about talking points for meetings with elected officials, and strategies to rally your community. Get your free copy today at alleycat.org/AdvocacyToolkit.



Ray Harry and Sheila Ward with their cat Alakazam.

PLANNED GIVING: A LEGACY OF ENDURING LOVE

For Sheila Ward and Ray Harry, including Alley Cat Allies in their estate planning made perfect sense.

Since early childhood, Sheila remembers admiring her grandmother, who took in abandoned kittens and puppies, nursed them back to health, and found their forever homes. Although she was surrounded by different animals, Sheila was most enthralled by cats.

Sheila's passion for helping community cats grew as she volunteered in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, alongside Alley Cat Allies volunteers. "I was struck by the

knowledge and commitment of these volunteers and was delighted to learn that there was a group dedicated to advocating for cats who live outdoors."

Ray's fondness for cats also grew after witnessing Sheila's dedication to caring for them. She advocates for cats by speaking about the importance of neutering and caring for community cats. Ray provides invaluable support and does his part to care for their own cats, so Sheila can devote her time to volunteering with local animal groups.

When asked why they decided to add Alley Cat Allies in their estate plan, they said: "We believe that Alley Cat Allies is probably the most effective organization advocating for cats in the world. We love cats and have been strongly impressed with the scope of Alley Cat Allies' success in helping them."

To anyone making their financial plans, Sheila and Ray advise, "Adding Alley Cat Allies to our estate plan was quite easy. When making a will, it's simple to add in a clause that leaves something ... to Alley Cat Allies, in order to help all cats beyond our lifetime."

For more information on Planned Giving, contact Alley Cat Allies at [866-309-6207](tel:866-309-6207) or plannedgiving@alleycat.org. 

DISASTER RELIEF





The Alley Cat Allies bilingual Disaster Response Team aided in the rescue and recovery of cats affected by Hurricane Harvey. To ensure that Alley Cat Allies is always able to respond when cats need us, please donate at alleycat.org/Donate today!



Visit youtube.com/AlleyCatAllies to watch our Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. Donations from supporters like you enable us to head to areas hard hit by natural disasters to help save cats.

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:

-  **QUESTIONS?**— Looking for assistance with cats? Get the help you need!
alleycat.org/GetHelp
-  **DONATE**— Support cats nationwide.
alleycat.org/Donate
-  **LEARN**— Advocate for cats in your community.
alleycat.org/CommunityChange
-  **TAKE ACTION**— Receive our *FeralPower!* action alerts and other emails.
alleycat.org/SignUp

