

## ABOUT COMMUNITY CATS

Community cats—also called feral—are unowned cats who live outdoors. They are the same species as domestic pet cats, but because they are not socialized to people, they're unadoptable. It's okay that they live outside! They wouldn't be happy living indoors as pet cats. Instead, they thrive on their own outdoors, in groups called colonies.

*But this boardwalk cat is coming up to me!  
I thought they didn't like people.*

The boardwalk cats, like all community cats, have different levels of **socialization** to people. For instance, some of the boardwalk cats lounge on the boardwalk and even in stores, but others won't ever let you see them!

*Why are the cats missing the  
tips of their left ears?*

It's called an **eartip**. It's how you identify a community cat who has been neutered and vaccinated. Every community cat who goes through a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program is **eartipped** while under anesthesia during spay or neuter surgery.

*Why is spaying and neutering cats important?*

**Spay and neuter** prevents litters and the stressful behaviors associated with mating. It's better for cats and the community!

Above: Misu at Martin Luther King Avenue.

Julius lounging on New York Avenue.

## ABOUT ALLEY CAT ALLIES

Alley Cat Allies is the global engine of change for cats. We protect and improve cats' lives through our innovative, cutting-edge programs. We are seen around the world as a champion for the humane treatment of all cats. Founded in 1990, today Alley Cat Allies has grown into a powerful force with more than 650,000 supporters. Together, we've helped and inspired countless individuals, communities, and organizations save and improve the lives of millions of cats and kittens worldwide. We work with lawmakers, animal shelters, and the public to change attitudes and advance lifesaving policies that best serve the interests of cats. Learn more about our work at [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org).



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# Atlantic City Boardwalk Cats Project



Jeannie, Pooh, and Mr. Meow on the Atlantic City Boardwalk.



Pooh and Peanut enjoying the sun.



## ABOUT THE BOARDWALK CATS PROJECT

Alley Cat Allies cares for the community cat colonies on the Atlantic City Boardwalk in New Jersey as part of a city-endorsed Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program. The cats on the boardwalk—like all community cats—are not socialized to people and are not adoptable.



Through the TNR program, every boardwalk cat is humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped. They are living long, healthy lives in their outdoor homes on the boardwalk!

Since TNR started in 2000, the boardwalk's cat population has

naturally declined by more than 72 percent! No new litters have been born for years.

Dedicated volunteer caregivers feed the cats, keep their homes clean, and ensure they have warm shelters.

Above: Smokey is part of the Taj Mahal Colony.  
Middle: Mikey exiting his special feeding station at States Avenue.  
Right: Boardwalk volunteers after another successful cleanup.

Many of the boardwalk cats are well into their teens.

Suzy (*on the right*) is 12!



## CHALLENGES

Caring for colonies, especially in a large-scale effort like the Atlantic City Boardwalk Cats Project, is so rewarding but does have some challenges.

- Birds were eating the cats' food. In order to prevent this, we built special feeding stations with plastic strips over the openings that keep the birds out but let the cats in. The birds can't squeeze through the strips to get to the food, but the cats have no problem doing it.



- Cats thrive with a routine, so a project like this requires dedicated volunteers. On average, volunteers spend a combined 160 hours caring for cats per month!

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

**Don't leave pet cats at the Boardwalk!**  
It is illegal to abandon cats in New Jersey!

**Don't touch the cats!** Some cats are friendlier than others, but it's never a good idea to touch an animal you don't know.

**Don't feed the cats** your food! Volunteer caregivers feed the cats on a set schedule.

## OPPORTUNITIES

This program is a model for success! It has required involved cooperation among the Atlantic City Health and Public Works Departments, the Humane Society of Atlantic County, volunteers, and Alley Cat Allies!!

- People see the cats, read the Boardwalk Cats Project signs, and learn about cats and Trap-Neuter-Return.
- The cats and people coexist. The entire Atlantic City community cares about the cats—tourists, shop owners, locals, and city government!

