



ALLEY CAT ACTION

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter • alleycat.org • WINTER 2018

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



Hundreds of cats were spayed and neutered thanks to the Trapped in Paradise initiative.



Trap-Neuter-Return improves the lives of cats and the community.



With your support, Alley Cat Allies will continue to bring TIP to island communities that need it.

TRAPPED IN PARADISE

On the beautiful Hawaiian island of Kauai, with its powdery sand beaches and jutting cliffs, an extraordinary scene was playing out. Dozens of people were toting hundreds of cats in carriers, boxes, blankets, and even their arms to line up for a desperately needed service. In a span of six days, nearly 700 cats (yes, 700!) were spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped, and microchipped in the island's first-ever large-scale Mobile Animal Sterilization Hospital (MASH).

The initiative, called Trapped in Paradise (TIP), was created in partnership with Alley Cat Allies and nonprofit Animal Balance to help communities conduct Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) on islands around the world. TNR is often greatly needed on islands with limited resources.

We turned the Kauai Humane Society into the MASH unit to conduct high-volume spay and neuter procedures in September 2017. The results were dramatic, thanks to volunteers and residents who trapped and brought in community cats, and local and volunteer veterinarians who worked tirelessly to serve them.

(continued on page 3)



23,738

GLOBAL CAT DAY PLEDGES TAKEN



88

COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED

TOP 5 COUNTRIES



1. United States



2. Mexico



3. Brazil



4. Canada



5. France

TOP 5 STATES

1. California
2. New York
3. Florida
4. Pennsylvania
5. Texas



YOU CAN STILL TAKE THE PLEDGE TO PROTECT ALL CATS AT GLOBALCATDAY.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alley Cat Allies was busy in 2017, from Hawaii to Florida and many places in between. We supported disaster relief efforts amid hurricanes and wildfires, and helped to establish Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR) programs to save cats' lives. We will continue to work just as hard throughout this year to empower communities to take a humane approach to community cats through policy work and on-the-ground initiatives.

In Hawaii, we supported Animal Balance and its Trapped in Paradise (TIP) program. We helped set up two large-scale spay/neuter clinics that served nearly 1,400 cats in total (see page 1). We also helped shelters across the United States substantially reduce the number of cats killed by educating staff on the benefits of TNR (see page 3). Look for us to do more of this work in 2018.

Because of supporters like you, we were able to provide vital supplies to animals affected by hurricanes in Texas and Florida, and wildfires across California. It truly takes a village to save cats in cities across the country and around the world.

On that note, our first-ever Global Cat Day was a huge success. From October 2017 through the end of the year, we grew our movement to save cats' lives, all thanks to people like you who signed our pledge to protect all cats (see page 1). We're showing lawmakers that people will not stand for the inhumane treatment of cats.



To every pledge signer, colony caregiver, volunteer, adopter, foster, donor, and cat lover: We thank you.

For the cats,

Becky Robinson, President and Founder

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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.

EMPOWERING ANIMAL SHELTERS TO SAVE CATS' LIVES

For years, nearly every community cat brought to the Washington County-Johnson City Animal Shelter in Tennessee was killed. Today, the number of cats killed is half that, and more than 200 cats have gone through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

Tammy Davis, who took over as shelter director last May, started a TNR program after she heard Alley Cat Allies' Alice Burton give a talk on the benefits of TNR for community cats in shelters.

"Alice taught me first and foremost that TNR really is doable," Davis says. And if you educate the public about TNR, she adds, support will follow.

This is the outcome that Burton, our associate director of Animal Shelter & Animal Control Engagement, works toward: saving as many animals in shelters as possible. "I take the time to meet face-to-face with shelter staff and animal control officers and find out what they need to save more cats' lives," says Burton.

"That connection makes all the difference in creating humane change."



Trap-Neuter-Return moves community cats out of shelters, saving money and lives.

When shelters are involved with TNR, community cats brought to the facility are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped, and returned to their outdoor homes. This moves cats out of the shelter quickly, which saves their lives and reduces shelter costs.

Burton also helped to transform the Humane Society of Harford County in Maryland, the Rockbridge SPCA in Virginia, and the El Paso Animal Services Shelter in Texas, among others.

Some shelters say they lack resources to start a TNR program. Burton eases their concerns. "I always tell shelters to not let the little obstacles get in the way of saving lives," she says. "I tell them that if they have a cat, they can do TNR. Shelters in different geographic locations and with different budgets are doing this work. It's about figuring out how to do it in a way that works for them." 🌐

TRAPPED IN PARADISE ... (continued from page 1)

"Kauai has an undisturbed beauty, a diverse terrain of mountains, and golden sand beaches," says Becky Robinson, president and founder of Alley Cat Allies. "We want to ensure the island's community cats, who are part of that landscape, can continue living safely in their outdoor homes."

TIP is an example of how Alley Cat Allies' work for cats extends beyond the mainland United States. In July 2017, TIP was set up in Hilo, a town on the island of Hawaii. Once again, we helped some 700 cats in just six days. We've also treated hundreds of cats on the Hawaiian islands of Maui and Molokai. Most importantly, we trained the communities to create sustainable programs to humanely manage their community cat populations.

"The community is starting to realize that [TNR] is a beneficial service that they are happy to have participated in," said Hoala Davis, executive director of Molokai Humane Society. "As soon as someone sees a cat in their area now, they'll trap them and bring them up right away."

With your support, Alley Cat Allies will continue TIP on Maui, Molokai, and other Hawaiian islands. 🌐

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Hoala Davis, executive director of Molokai Humane Society



Watch our *Trapped in Paradise* video recap at youtube.com/AlleyCatAllies.



PROFILES IN COMPASSION

CANDY PEAVY WORKS TO PREVENT COMMUNITY CATS FROM BEING IMPOUNDED

What do chimpanzees and community cats have in common? A fierce advocate named Candy Peavy.



Candy Peavy holds Margarita at Robinson's Rescue, a low-cost clinic that serves community cats.

Her advocacy work in Shreveport, Louisiana, began in 2005 when she helped start Chimp Haven, a sanctuary that takes in chimpanzees with a heartrending history: They were either retired from laboratory research, kept as pets, or used in entertainment. A few years later, a major donor to the sanctuary asked Peavy to bring her dedication to resolve an issue closer to home: the critical need for affordable spay and neuter services, especially for stray and feral cats, in Caddo Parish.

“When I started looking into it, I was stunned by how many issues surrounded community cats in our area,” Peavy says. “I had no idea that the euthanasia numbers in our local shelter were so high, all because there was no real support for these cats.”

Peavy worked to start a high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Shreveport, and in 2008, Robinson's Rescue opened its doors. The clinic vaccinates and eartips community cats for Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

Though TNR has been practiced in the area for years, Peavy pushed to get an ordinance passed. She says that will help to get local shelter and animal control officers involved in conducting TNR, and prevent community cats from being impounded.

Alley Cat Allies staff traveled to Caddo Parish in August 2017 to meet Peavy and connect with key stakeholders about adopting a TNR ordinance. Three months later, the ordinance was passed.

“This is such rewarding work,” she says. “When you have a passion for animals, you can power through anything.” 🐾

COALITIONS BOOST IMPACT ALLIANCE FORMS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, TO HELP COMMUNITY CATS

When local organizations form county coalitions to help community cats, their impact can be greater as they pool their resources and harness their collective expertise.



Coalitions that form to protect community cats often make a profound impact in their cities and counties.

That's why Alley Cat Allies is enthusiastic about the Montgomery County Community Cat Coalition in Maryland, which formed in 2016. We were delighted to provide guidance and expertise to support its mission: to improve the lives of community cats by promoting Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), assisting community cat caregivers, and educating residents about community cats.

“The coalition puts [TNR] in the community, where it belongs,” says Thomas Koenig, director of the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC) since 2015. He suggested creating the coalition after he had success helping to form Virginia's Loudoun Community Cat Coalition in 2014.

Efforts like these are key to making progress for TNR and community cats. Montgomery County's coalition president, Jan Armstrong, says her group aims to help people “understand what community cats are, how we can help them, and why we should help them.” Eventually, she says, this coalition can become a model program for other communities.

Start a coalition in your community! Go to alleycat.org/CommunityChange. 🐾



ASK THE EXPERT: ALICE BURTON

Alice Burton is our associate director of Animal Shelter & Animal Control Engagement. She hosts seminars across the United States on the benefits of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR).

Q. How can I help my local shelter start a Shelter-Neuter-Return program?

A. With SNR, community cats brought to a shelter by animal control officers or citizens are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped (the universal sign of TNR), and returned to their outdoor home. SNR, also called Return to Field and Feral Freedom, improves the shelter environment, saves taxpayer dollars, and protects community cats from being killed. Many shelters are unaware of the benefits of SNR.



Some shelters that do SNR cut their community cats' euthanasia rates in half.

Here's how you can help: Ask the shelter about its approach to community cats. Rally community members in support of SNR. Find community cat advocates in your area through Alley Cat Allies' Feral Friends Network at alleycat.org/FeralFriend. Then approach your shelter as a united front. Explain the economic and humane benefits of SNR for the shelter and cats. For example, because community cats move out of the shelter quickly, resources needed to house them are instead allocated to adoptable cats.

If you're in a local group doing TNR or know one willing to assist, offer these services to the shelter. Once staff members know they have a community to support SNR, they may consider implementing their own program.

Learn more by visiting alleycat.org/ShelterToolkit.

ALLEY CAT ALLIES AIDS HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

As Hurricane Harvey slammed Texas and caused severe flooding, Alley Cat Allies and other animal groups sprang into action to facilitate remarkable rescues, recoveries, and reunions.

In coastal Baytown, Randa Faycal stepped out of her house to feed the usual four community cats who gathered there—and found herself surrounded by 10 cats, then 15! She received assistance to care for them from Alley Cat Allies and A Life to Live. We also gave emergency grants to local groups and delivered vital supplies.

“It was an amazing experience for Alley Cat Allies to come work directly with our team and help our local efforts of targeting and serving community cats,” says Jay Garrett, founder and executive director of A Life to Live. “The donations of traps, carriers, food, and supplies—all of that has been incredibly instrumental in the work we've been doing.”

We also provided emergency grants to the CATNIP Foundation, Friends for Life in Houston, Austin Pets Alive!, the Humane Society of Louisiana, and Wharton County Stray Pet Outreach Team.

Read more about our hurricane relief efforts at alleycat.org/HarveyRelief.



Catherine Wilbert of the CATNIP Foundation cares for rescued cats in Texas.

FORGET-ME-NOT LEGACY SOCIETY: LEAVE A GIFT OF CARE AND PROTECTION FOR CATS

Ruthie Ezell has given 31 years of civilian service to the U.S. Air Force, and in recent years, has given her time and energy to a family of community cats who took up residence in her backyard. In 2013, five community cats appeared at her home in Florida. Ezell came across Alley Cat Allies when researching how to care for them. She's been a supporter and donor ever since.



Spaz, Gizmo, and Dakota (pictured in the circles) enjoy life indoors with Ruthie Ezell. The six cats in a colony prefer their outdoor home.

“Something about Alley Cat Allies struck a chord with me,” Ezell explains. “I liked the fact that the organization has a four-star rating with Charity Navigator. It reassured me that any funds I donate will actually go toward the cats and kittens.”

Ezell joined our planned giving program, the **Forget-Me-Not Legacy Society**, because she recognizes that Alley Cat Allies' advocacy work on behalf of cats creates humane change and saves cats' lives.

“In very simple terms, I like knowing that someone is actively dispelling myths about cats and kittens to a much larger audience than I could alone,” Ezell says.

Today, Ezell cares for nine cats. Three of them—Spaz, Gizmo, and Dakota—are indoor cats. The other six have gone through Trap-Neuter-Return and live happily in her backyard.

Generous donors like Ezell give Alley Cat Allies the power to work for lasting change for cats and kittens worldwide. By naming Alley Cat Allies as a beneficiary in your will through the Forget-Me-Not Legacy Society, you can help cats for generations to come and know that your contribution will be used wisely and in the cats' best interests.

Visit alleycat.org/PlannedGiving for more information. To learn about your giving options, contact us at 1-866-309-6207 or plannedgiving@alleycat.org.

HISSES AND PURRS

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



PURRS to **Roseville, MI**, for making Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR) a requirement, just six months after Alley Cat Allies helped start an SNR pilot program.



HISSES to the **Ohio County Health Department** in **West Virginia** for demanding the removal of a local and cared-for community cat colony.



PURRS to **Lafayette, LA**, for adopting a strong Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) ordinance, and declaring TNR the city's official “preferred method.”



HISSES to **Alaska** for rejecting a proposal that would have legalized TNR and allowed sterilized feral cats to be released outdoors.

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