



ALLEY CAT ACTION

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter • alleycat.org • SUMMER 2018

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

TROUBLING CONDITIONS THREATEN COMMUNITY CATS IN HAWAII



Community cats—and owned cats who are sometimes outdoors—are facing a grave situation in Hawaii. A cruel plan to outlaw the feeding of cats, interfere with the practice of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), and ultimately “destroy” cats at small boat harbors “by any means necessary” may become law soon.

Despite overwhelming opposition from local and national organizations, including Alley Cat Allies, and residents, the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is pushing for Governor David Ige to sign its deadly plans into law.

Drastic rules that would harm cats could go into effect soon in Hawaii.

The provision to destroy cats at small boat harbors would be delayed until January 2019. The feeding ban and interference with TNR would be effective immediately, resulting in the suffering and deaths of healthy, much-loved community cats.

The new DLNR rules are a misguided attempt to control cat populations. TNR works, and 91 percent of voters in Hawaii prefer TNR over killing cats.

Alley Cat Allies has succeeded in delaying the rules and is working strenuously to prevent them from becoming law. Should they be implemented, we will fight to have them overturned.

Speak out and protect the cats who need us. Take action at alleycat.org/Hawaii.



Community cats, and owned cats who are sometimes outdoors, are in danger.

IN HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA: “TNR WAS THE ANSWER”

The Hernando County Commissioners approved a countywide Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program in April, and Alley Cat Allies was proud to help guide them.



TNR benefits cats and the community.

“The county years ago was pretty much killing every cat in the shelter, yet year after year after year, things never got any better,” says James Terry, animal services manager. “I quickly came to the conclusion that euthanizing cats was not solving anything. TNR was the answer.”

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have so much to tell you about our work to save cats this spring and summer!

In New Jersey, we were proud to help transform the largest shelter in Camden County to save more cats (see page 3). You'll be so impressed by the results! To create humane change in Iowa, our team deployed to the rural town of Jefferson, where police officers were fatally shooting trapped cats (see page 4). We are so glad to report that policy has been suspended.



In Jefferson, Iowa, a policy to shoot cats is suspended.

We are offering tips now that summer is in full swing. We've prepared a handy checklist to help you keep cats safe in the heat (see page 5) and in the event of hurricanes (let's hope not)!

And finally, In Hawaii, feral cats who live near small boat harbors face a grave situation. Drastic rules that would round up and kill cats may be signed into law soon (see page 1). We are fighting to prevent these and other dire changes from being implemented.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We couldn't do this important work without you.



For the cats,

Becky Robinson, President and Founder

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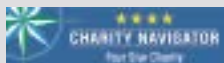
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It is Alley Cat Allies' practice to exchange the names of our donors with other charities that share our values. We do this in order to both expand our donor base and spread our mission, and to support those charities that we feel are working toward 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.

ALLEY CAT ALLIES FUELS SHELTER'S TRANSFORMATION

In 2006, the Camden County Animal Shelter in New Jersey was stacked floor to ceiling with cages of cats and kittens. The annual intake was more than 6,000 animals, and the total save rate was under 50 percent. The shelter was faltering, with half of the animals coming from the city of Camden, one of the poorest areas in the nation.

A group of volunteers stepped in to keep the debt-ridden shelter afloat. Among them: Michelle Zebrowski, who became the shelter's board president. "I was staring at all these cats, and I didn't know what to do," says Zebrowski. "I reached out to Alley Cat Allies out of pure desperation."

Alley Cat Allies' advice—that her community needed more low-cost spay and neuter options—was "eye-opening," Zebrowski says. We helped the shelter provide these low-cost services, a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, and used innovative ideas to gain community support.

Zebrowski and others worked with nearly every elementary and middle school in the shelter's sprawling service area, stuffing thousands of students' backpacks with flyers "so we could reach the parents that way," she says.

They set up tables at community events and hung Alley Cat Allies doorhangers in neighborhoods to change residents' attitudes about cats.




Community outreach and education turn Camden County Animal Shelter into regional success.

The shelter used mapping software to find "hot spots" of community cats, which helped it carry out targeted TNR. The shelter implemented a foster program, filled adoption spaces at local pet stores, and increased partnerships with other New Jersey shelters and rescues.

Each year, conditions at the shelter improved. By 2017, the shelter had fully transformed. Its save rate for cats is 91 percent, the highest of any shelter in the region. More than 20,000 owned and community cats have been spayed or neutered.

Now that Camden County has passed a resolution endorsing TNR, more groups are working closely with

the shelter to save even more community cats, says Camden County Animal Shelter Executive Director Vicki Rowland.

If Camden County can transform its shelter and policies despite such odds, then communities around the nation can create humane change, too. 


A PROFILE IN COMPASSION: RITA FLYGAR

It started with a community cat colony close to her Rockville, Maryland, neighborhood. Rita Flygar and her husband, Ray, tag-teamed to carry out Trap-Neuter-Return. She took on trapping the cats while Ray transported them to spay and neuter clinics.

The couple then worked their way through other colonies in a nearby industrial area. In three years' time, the Flygars put some 200 cats through TNR.

"I would go at night with binoculars and make sure that no new unspayed or unneutered cats were coming into the colonies, [and] make sure there were no kittens being born," Rita Flygar says.

Over the years, Alley Cat Allies provided the Flygars with supplies and advocacy help. Rita Flygar used that advice to help a positive TNR ordinance get approved in Rockville in 2015.

"TNR gives these cats ... a life where they're not constantly reproducing, not hungry, and they're healthier," she says. "I'm glad that I can do something to contribute to their well-being." 



Rita Flygar carries out Trap-Neuter-Return on community cats near her Rockville, Maryland, home.

MEMO TO JEFFERSON: IOWA COMMUNITIES REPORT TNR SUCCESS



Communities in Iowa tout the benefits of Trap-Neuter-Return.

“Jefferson has taken an important first step, but in order to be effective in helping cats and their community, the town needs a comprehensive humane approach, including low-cost spay and neuter services and a Trap-Neuter-Return program,” says Becky Robinson, president and founder of Alley Cat Allies.

Our team deployed to Jefferson to create immediate and humane solutions, but officials declined to meet with us.

We continue to reach out.

Meanwhile, Jefferson doesn't need to look far for inspiration. Surrounding cities and counties have embraced successful TNR programs for years. Through TNR, community cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped, and returned to their outdoor homes.



Winterset, Iowa, moves from trapping and killing cats to TNR.

Officials in Jefferson, Iowa, came under fire this spring for their policy of trapping and shooting cats. Following national news coverage, the cruel practice carried out by police officers was halted.

In rural Winterset, a city-funded TNR program that began in 2014 has spayed or neutered more than 500 community cats. The program has been so effective that officials increased the city's budget for TNR this year. Before TNR was adopted, the city trapped and killed cats—and it accomplished nothing.

“We used to get a fair number of calls or people would come to City Council meetings and implore us to do something about the cats. Now we're not really getting complaints at City Hall anymore about stray or feral cats,” says Winterset City Administrator Mark Nitchals.

In nearby Boone County, the Boone Area Humane Society's new TNR program is already proving effective. The “stray hold area” of the shelter, which had always been full of cats, is now often empty.

The city of Cedar Rapids boasts that the Iowa Humane Alliance's Regional Spay/Neuter Clinic has spayed or neutered 39,000 animals since opening in 2013, including community cats. Local shelters also reported decreases in their community cat intake since TNR began.

Communities around Jefferson, and throughout the United States, have seen firsthand that TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. 🌐



People in rural areas and urban neighborhoods benefit from TNR and other humane programs.

IN HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA: “TNR WAS THE ANSWER...”

(continued from page 1)

The county's TNR program is a model for cities and counties around the nation. Terry says he's been getting phone calls from residents who want to help carry out TNR on neighborhood cat colonies.

“We're all more than ready to do the humane thing for cats instead of senselessly killing them,” he says. 🌐



(Right to left) Richard Silvani, executive director of PetLuv Spay Neuter Clinic; Dr. Julie Rosenberger, managing veterinarian of Hernando County Animal Services; Barbara Sprague, executive director of the Humane Society of the Nature Coast; Alley Cat Allies' Molly Armus; Betty Erhard, Brooksville Mayor; James Terry, Hernando County Animal Services manager; and Alley Cat Allies' Alice Burton.



ASK THE EXPERT: ALICE BURTON

Alice Burton is our associate director of Animal Shelter & Animal Control Engagement and a former animal control officer (ACO). She hosts seminars and works with ACOs, shelters, elected officials, and advocates on the benefits of Trap-Neuter-Return, Shelter-Neuter-Return, and other programs.

Q. I was approached by a friendly cat outdoors with no identification. What should I do?

A. A cat may seem friendly but that doesn't mean she's lost. Some unowned cats (or community cats) can be socialized, or friendly, to people. Still, you'll want to be sure that someone isn't looking for her.

If you can foster the cat as you look for her owner or caregiver, great! If not, let her stay outside and keep an eye on her. Take note of her appearance (use our "Look At That Cat" guide at alleycat.org/IDGuide), and note where and when you found her. Take photos of her. Use them to create a poster to circulate to your neighbors, mail carriers, and in neighborhoods. Post photos on your community's social media page.

If you can catch the cat, take her to a veterinarian, animal shelter, or rescue group to have her scanned for a possible microchip. Call local shelters and veterinarians and ask if they've received missing cat reports from residents. File a "found" report at the shelters. But don't leave her there. Cats impounded at shelters are almost always killed.

If you can't find an owner or caregiver, the cat could just be a friendly stray who is not part of a managed colony. You may consider finding her a new adoptive home. If you believe the cat is comfortable outdoors, let her stay there and become her caregiver. 🐾



Some unowned cats are friendly to people. If you suspect a cat is lost, get her scanned for a microchip.

Cut out and save these tips! ✂

PROTECTING CATS DURING SUMMER AND WEATHER-RELATED DISASTERS

Keeping Cats Cool in the Heat

During the dog days of summer, keep community cats well-fed, hydrated, and healthy with these tips:

- ❑ Give cats extra water. Place water bowls in the shade and consider keeping water cold with ice cubes.
- ❑ Keep insects away by elevating feeding stations and surrounding them with baking soda. Or use a bug-proof food dish. Find options at alleycat.org/AntProof.
- ❑ If you carry out Trap-Neuter-Return, don't place traps on hot surfaces. Never leave cats out in heat or in hot cars.
- ❑ Make sure cats have a cool, shady place to rest. Look for ideas at alleycat.org/ShelterGallery.

Find more tips at alleycat.org/SummerWeather.



Preparing for Evacuation

Hurricane season is reaching its peak in parts of the U.S. Keep your disaster preparedness checklist handy to ensure the well-being of cats in your care:

- ❑ Do not bring community cats with you if you are evacuating. The outdoors is their home, and they do best following their instincts during disasters.
- ❑ Have descriptions and photos of the owned and community cats you care for. These will help accurately identify them if displaced cats end up in shelters or other rescue areas.
- ❑ Make a list of local shelters and their contact information in case you need their help or resources.
- ❑ If you live in a flood-prone area, put cat shelters and feeding stations on higher ground.

For more tips, visit alleycat.org/DisasterTips.

FORGET-ME-NOT LEGACY SOCIETY PROTECTS CATS FOR GENERATIONS

Betty Ottaway has loved cats ever since her daughter brought a young stray cat onto their porch to protect her from snow. The cat soon gave birth to five kittens. Betty adopted two of them, along with their mother.



Betty Ottaway cares for owned and community cats. She carried out TNR on Mrs. Hisses and kitten, above, in 2004.

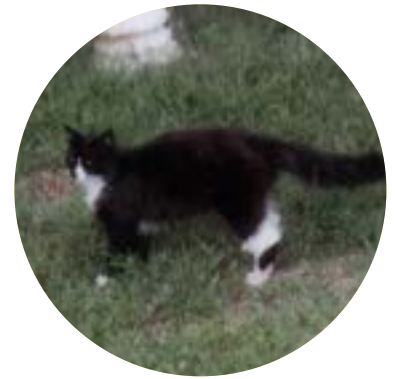
Although she retired 11 years ago, Betty says she has kept busy with “cats, cats, and more cats.”

At age 76, Betty cares for 23 cats, including colonies of community cats. She

travels by bicycle or on foot to provide the cats with food, water, and a daily dose of TLC.

Betty has been an Alley Cat Allies supporter since she learned about us from a magazine at her veterinarian’s office in 1999.

“Alley Cat Allies is the leader in Trap-Neuter-Return and has taught me everything I know,” Betty says. “They taught me about cats’ health and provided me with materials to bring this lifesaving information to shelters and feline adoptive parents.”



This photo of Mr. T was taken in summer 2006.

Betty says “it touched my heart” to learn about those who created a lasting foundation for cats by joining our Forget-Me-Not Legacy Society. She has included Alley Cat Allies in her estate plans so that she, too, can leave a legacy and support our mission to save cats for generations to come.

Anyone can create a legacy of love and protection for cats by naming Alley Cat Allies a beneficiary in his or her will.

To learn about your giving options, contact us at **1-866-309-6207** or at plannedgiving@alleycat.org.

HISSES AND PURRS

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



PURRS to the **College of Veterinarians of British Columbia** for outlawing the practice of declawing cats, effective immediately. It is the second Canadian province to ban declawing.



HISSES to the **USDA** for using kittens to research Toxoplasmosis and then killing them. Most human cases of this disease stem from undercooked food, not cats, as previous research has shown.



PURRS to a jury in **Augusta, Kansas**, for finding community cat caregivers Sue and Ray Jones not guilty after they were charged with giving water to community cats. The couple is now pushing for a city Trap-Neuter-Return policy.



HISSES to **California** and **West Virginia** for failing to move forward with a bill that would have prohibited declawing cats statewide.

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