

ALLEY CAT ACTION™

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | alleycat.org | WINTER 2019

For Alley Cat Allies' Over Half a Million Supporters and Activists

ALLEY CAT ALLIES HELPS CATS AS WILDFIRES RAVAGE CALIFORNIA

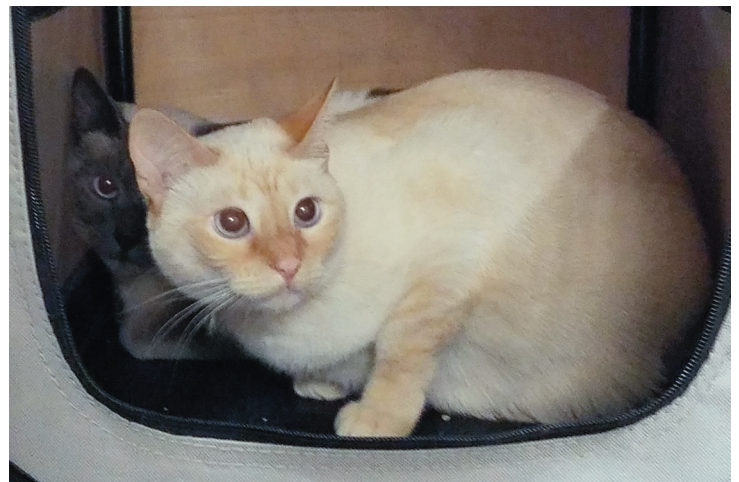
Months after a deadly wildfire destroyed the Northern California town of Paradise and spread across the hills to neighboring cities, Alley Cat Allies continues to provide expertise and support to groups taking in affected cats and other animals. As the state rebuilds, the groups are still relying on our guidance, and using the emergency grants and supplies we provided, to care for the cats. Wildfires also swept across Southern California.

Becky Robinson, president and founder of Alley Cat Allies, was on the scene in Northern California in

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Watch our disaster response video.

Go to alleycat.org/Wildfires



Frightened and displaced by the wildfire, two cats are brought to a temporary shelter near Paradise, California.

ON THE SCENE IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE MICHAEL



A cat rescued amid the chaos receives veterinary care.

After Hurricane Michael tore through the Florida Panhandle late last year, Alley Cat Allies rushed to provide vital funding, supplies, and on-the-ground assistance to save cats and other animals.

Our funding enabled more than 400 cats and dogs to be transported to safety; provided 30 kittens with veterinary care, including

spay and neuter services; bought food and other emergency supplies; and helped reunite cats with their families.



The Alachua County Humane Society prepares to airlift cats out of harm's way with help from Alley Cat Allies.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This fall and winter, we witnessed heartbreak, compassion, and advocacy in action. I was in Northern California with Alley Cat Allies staff in November, providing comfort to residents and caring for animals displaced by the deadly wildfire (page 1). As communities begin to rebuild, we will continue to provide guidance and support to local animal groups there.

Just one month earlier, we were busy helping groups cope with another disaster: Hurricane Michael. We provided emergency grants to transport cats and dogs out of harm's way in Florida. We are still involved in a grassroots effort to save and improve cats' lives.

In Indiana, your support fueled our success in getting the Spencer County Animal Shelter to close (page 3). We're grateful that shelter worker Bridget Woodson came forward to report how inhumane methods were used to kill cats.

Thanks to all of you, we witnessed advocacy in action as you shared your stories with us in honor of Global Cat Day. From Japan, the United Kingdom, the U.S., and countries in between, people shared how they worked to spay, neuter, and vaccinate cats, overturn laws, change policies, and care for cats in their communities.

We thank you for your support as we respond to cats in need, work tirelessly to transform communities, and celebrate victories that make our world better for cats.

For the cats,




Becky Robinson

Becky Robinson, President and Founder

Connect with me online

 facebook.com/ACAPresident

 instagram.com/FeralBecky  twitter.com/FeralBecky

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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 half a million 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.

STANDING AGAINST CRUELTY IN SHELTERS

Alley Cat Allies, together with our supporters, put an end to the cruelty by closing the Spencer County Animal Shelter in Indiana. The abuse was so awful it's hard for us to even write: The shelter was closed after it was reported that kittens were "euthanized" by putting them in a freezer to die.

We mobilized residents, advocates, and supporters to speak out, and attended County Commissioners meetings to demand humane change, oversight, and accountability. We presented officials with a letter, signed by 8,000 supporters, calling for immediate reforms.

Two months later in October, our efforts paid off. Officials closed the shelter and transferred a dozen or so animals to local rescue groups.

In a statement that was carried by national and local news outlets, Becky Robinson, president and founder of Alley Cat Allies, said: "Closing the shelter was the only way to ensure humane treatment for animals in the county. The county needs to ensure best practices are in place if the shelter reopens, and that there is no chance of returning to the dark days of freezing animals to death."

Alley Cat Allies will continue to push for the county to operate with the highest standards of care to protect animals if officials reopen the shelter. Staff and volunteers must be adequately trained. Indiana also must pass laws that would increase transparency

and require shelters to keep detailed public records of intake and outcome for all animals.

These are the standards and practices that shelter animals deserve, and they should be in place in every shelter in the U.S.


Alley Cat Allies thanks everyone who helped us push for justice and accountability in Spencer County.

Help us save the lives of cats. Join us at alleycat.org/SignUp. 



THE WHISTLE-BLOWER: BRIDGET WOODSON SPEAKS OUT TO PROTECT ANIMALS

At age 24, Bridget Woodson didn't know her courage would be tested last summer when she went to work at the Spencer County Animal Shelter in Indiana. On the job for only a month, she was shocked when her boss directed her to "euthanize" kittens in a horrifying way. She refused and reported the shelter to authorities.

Alley Cat Allies met with Woodson and worked to bring shelter officials to account. We are grateful that this brave young woman spoke out for the animals. 

ARE SANCTUARIES THE ANSWER FOR CATS?

When you think about cat sanctuaries, do images of furry felines frolicking in green grassy meadows come to mind?

In many cases, the reality is this: Cat sanctuaries lack adequate resources to properly care for cats.

When large numbers of cats are confined in small rooms or areas, they become extremely stressed and can be exposed to contagious diseases.

Sanctuaries are a poor alternative for community cats who do best when they're allowed to live and thrive in their outdoor homes, and for socialized cats who are better off being rehomed by their owners' friends, relatives, acquaintances, or colleagues.

To help you learn more about sanctuaries, Alley Cat Allies has created resources on our website so you can identify red flags and know more.

Go to [alleycat.org/CatSanctuaries](https://www.alleycat.org/CatSanctuaries) to read about the challenges and to learn why sanctuaries may not be the refuge you envision. 🐾



Community cats thrive with their feline families in their outdoor homes. Sanctuaries are not in their best interest.

NEW DELAWARE LAW IS A MODEL FOR OTHER STATES



Delaware passed a law in October that supports humane and effective community cat programs. Alley Cat Allies advocated tirelessly for this measure.

Now residents are increasingly seeking out resources for carrying out Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and caring for community cats.

“We have seen a surge of people asking for help with colonies,” says Jane Pierantozzi, executive director of Delaware’s Faithful Friends Animal Society, a member of Alley Cat Allies’ Feral Friends Network™.

We sent a letter of support to Delaware officials and mobilized residents to urge their legislators to pass the bill. It’s been called a model for the nation.

Animal shelters are now permitted to spay and neuter community cats and return them to their outdoor homes, or direct them to TNR programs, without a holding period. The law also clarifies that Delaware’s animal cruelty laws protect all cats from abuse.

Alley Cat Allies is thrilled to bring humane change to Delaware. 🐾



Alley Cat Allies staff attorney Molly Armus praises Delaware’s new law to protect community cats.

ALLEY CAT ALLIES HELPS CATS AS WILDFIRES RAVAGE CALIFORNIA

(continued from page 1)

November after the fire erupted and caused widespread destruction. She helped the local nonprofit FieldHaven Feline Center as it set up a makeshift animal shelter for evacuees' pets in Yuba City, just south of the blaze. The fires caused fatalities and left thousands of people and animals displaced in the state.

Wearing breathing respirators, Robinson and Alley Cat Allies staff drove into a haze of smoke to bring vital



Alley Cat Allies' Becky Robinson discusses disaster relief plans for animals displaced by the wildfire near Paradise, California.

supplies to the cat evacuation shelter. They provided FieldHaven staff and volunteers with expert guidance, hauled in supplies, and listened to one tragic story after another from locals who lost everything.

“Some people had to live with their animals in their cars. Many others didn't have time to take their animals with them,” Robinson says. “Today, Alley Cat Allies is still helping local groups reunite cats with their families. We expect the work to go on for some time.”

Peggy H. lost her home in Paradise, which was in smoldering ruins. She was living in her car with her cat, Honey, and her dog until it got too cold for Honey. That's when she brought her to the FieldHaven shelter. “I said, I can't keep her with me. It got to 34 degrees outside. My cat was just melting down.”

Our disaster relief efforts in California would not be possible without your continued support. Alley Cat Allies is deeply thankful to every person who donated to help us provide a lifeline to the animals and people who lost everything.

You can continue to support our disaster response work at alleycat.org/Donate. 🐾

PROFILE IN COMPASSION: KANDI HABEB

Kandi Habeb, president and founder of the Save a Kitty Feral Cat Program, Inc., in Parkersburg, West Virginia, was recognized recently with a 2018 Governor's Service Award. The award brought statewide attention to Habeb's accomplishments: helping more than 6,700 cats and kittens and reducing local shelter euthanasia rates through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

“I was honored that our work to help community cats was recognized,” says Habeb. “After all these years of making TNR work, it's amazing to see the difference it's made.”

Habeb's journey began 15 years ago when she encountered a community cat and her kittens while walking home after dinner. With early guidance and support from Alley Cat Allies, Habeb established her organization in 2004. She and her team of about 50 volunteers work with residents and veterinarians to carry out TNR for hundreds of cats each year—more than 700 in 2018 alone. Habeb has also helped

individuals and organizations around the state develop their own TNR programs.

Habeb says her local shelter killed nearly 400 cats a month back in 2004. Because she kept cats out of the shelter with TNR, she says the only cats euthanized in 2018 were ill and untreatable—not healthy cats as in previous years. This lifesaving change inspires Habeb every day.

“I do this because these (community) cats deserve to live,” she says. “We need to get past the idea that all cats have to live in a house. It's just not reality. TNR is the best and only way to help them.” 🐾




Kandi Habeb poses with Woody: “These cats deserve to live.”

PLANNED GIVING PROFILE: JOANNE KRAUSE



Joanne Krause didn't discover what she calls her inner cat person until she met Lou, her significant other and a lifelong cat lover. As an unofficial engagement present, Lou's family gave the couple a very friendly cat who had been found outdoors. They named the little black-and-white cat, Muffin, and she was the first of many cats to share their home in Baltimore, Maryland.

Joanne, who is now retired, discovered Alley Cat Allies by reading an educational brochure during a routine veterinary visit. She says she was "immediately inspired" to learn about an organization devoted entirely to protecting cats. She also says she hadn't realized how many wonderful healthy cats were euthanized in shelters each year. She decided to donate to Alley Cat Allies to help prevent these needless deaths.

While finalizing her estate plans, Joanne increased her commitment by naming Alley Cat Allies as a beneficiary in her will. Thanks to her generosity, Alley Cat Allies can continue the lifesaving work that will protect cats for generations to come. 

Visit alleycat.org/PlannedGiving (CFC #10964) (EIN #52-1742079) or for more information call **866-309-6207**.

HISSES AND PURRS

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



PURRS to the **Brussels Parliament** in Belgium for adopting a draft ordinance that recognizes animals as sentient beings, giving them stronger legal protections.



HISSES to the **University of Illinois-Springfield** for ending the campus TNR program and threatening termination or disciplinary action against employees and students who feed cats on campus.



PURRS to **Brooklyn, New York**, for establishing the first domestic violence shelter specifically built to be a refuge for victims and their pets.



HISSES to **Palmerton, Pennsylvania**, for fining compassionate people for feeding community cats and practicing TNR.



BEAT THE HEAT® TO SAVE KITTENS' LIVES

Winter is the ideal time to spay and neuter cats. So let's get ahead of prime kitten season in the spring and summer and curb the breeding cycle before it starts.

Learn more at alleycat.org/BeatTheHeat.

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



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



DONATE—Support cats nationwide.
alleycat.org/Donate



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