

ALLEY CAT ACTION[®]

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | alleycat.org | SPRING 2019

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

FROM RECOVERY TO REUNION: TRUE TALES OF THE CAMP FIRE CATS



Ellie and Hunter are back with their families thanks to the Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center[®].

The Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center[®] continues to work around the clock to care for cats who survived California's deadliest wildfire in November 2018. The Camp Fire devastated the town of Paradise and several other communities. Alley Cat Allies President and Founder Becky Robinson was on the front lines as cats were rescued in the aftermath. Our leadership, expertise, and funding, and the generosity of our donors, is making the recovery center possible. Operated by FieldHaven Feline Center, the recovery center has provided everything from recovery to reunion for more than 500 cats since the Camp Fire occurred in November 2018.

Read about some of the cats' journeys out of the ashes and into the care of the Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center[®].

Ellie

When Ellie was rescued in December and brought to the recovery center, she wore a collar with her name and phone number, but it was to a landline in a home that had burned down. We turned to our community network and Butte County's Camp Fire website to track down Ellie's caregiver, Constance F. After two months apart, Constance F. was thrilled and grateful to be reunited with Ellie.

Hunter

Hunter hunkered down for 62 days near the remains of his Paradise home before he was caught on camera by a volunteer working with the recovery center. His family fled without Hunter when the fire erupted. Hunter was finally humanely trapped and brought to the recovery center, where he was reunited with his family.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



From right to left: Zachary Brown, representative for Yuba City Assemblyman James Gallagher; Becky Robinson, president and founder of Alley Cat Allies; Shon Harris, mayor of Yuba City; Joy Smith, executive director of FieldHaven Feline Center; and Manny Cardoza, vice-mayor of Yuba City.

run by FieldHaven Feline Center, continues to provide lifesaving care for cats who survived. As we went to press, a microchipped cat named Dexter who went missing after the blaze was being reunited with his family in St. Louis, where they had moved. Getting the affected cats out of harm's way and into the safety of the recovery center (page 1) would not have been possible without our generous donors.

Also, with your donations, we've been able to provide funding to help other cats in need. On page 3, you'll read about our grant that supported the CATNIP Foundation in Louisiana as it carried out Trap-Neuter-Return for about 400 cats! We also provided funds for medical care, transportation, and other costs to help cats rescued after deadly tornadoes struck Alabama in March.

The impact of Alley Cat Allies on cats and their communities has never been greater. It's been six months since California's deadliest wildfire erupted in November. The Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center[®],

The weather has been intense, but we're hoping that this year's kitten season is anything but! Now through late summer in much of the U.S., it's that time of year when most litters of kittens are born. It's critical that shelters use our Wait Until 8[®] program (page 3) to empower people to care for kittens until they reach 8 weeks old.

And finally, read about what Alley Cat Allies found when we visited the San Jose Animal Care Center (page 4). Were cats in cages upon cages? No! Find out why and be inspired by these happy tails!




For the cats,

Becky Robinson
President and Founder

Connect with me online

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 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.



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.

GRANTED! ALLEY CAT ALLIES PROVIDES GRANTS TO HELP ANIMALS IN NEED



Community cats are rescued in the aftermath of the Alabama tornadoes.

Beauregard. We continue to work with groups to rescue and care for cats as Alabama recovers from this disaster.

Here are some other ways our strategic support saved cats' lives.

CATNIP Foundation at Big Sky Ranch, Folsom, Louisiana

Alley Cat Allies' October grant helped the CATNIP Foundation at Big Sky Ranch carry out Trap-Neuter-Return for about 400 cats as of February 2019. Our funds also enabled the foundation to provide medical care for cats in need.

This "afforded us the opportunity to help people and animals in the neediest places who otherwise would've had absolutely no other resource," says CATNIP CEO Catherine Wilbert. "The need here is overwhelming."

WITH THE COMMUNITY'S HELP, WAIT UNTIL 8® SAVES KITTENS



Wait Until 8 keeps kittens like this out of shelters.


Alley Cat Allies' Wait Until 8 Program harnesses the power of community to keep kittens out of shelters to save their lives. Now that we're deep into kitten season, the time of year when the most litters are born, these programs are more important than ever.

Here's how it works: When people take kittens they find outside to a shelter, the staff instead

Homeward Trails

Meow, an 11-year-old FIV-positive tabby cat, had been in an animal shelter when he was hospitalized for pneumonia. Virginia animal rescue Homeward Trails, with help from Alley Cat Allies' funding, stepped in when he recovered, placing him in a foster home and providing continued veterinary care. The cuddly cat was adopted in December.

The August 2018 grant from Alley Cat Allies also supports veterinary care for kittens who will come into the group's new cageless cat shelter called Meow Palace, which will open this summer.

"This is absolutely not something we could have done without this support," says Sue Bell, Homeward Trails founder and executive director. 



Thanks to a generous grant from Alley Cat Allies, the CATNIP Foundation at Big Sky Ranch carried out Trap-Neuter-Return for more than 400 cats in less than a year.

equips those individuals to care for the kittens in their own homes. Caregivers are provided with detailed instructions and kitten care kits with everything they need to help kittens grow healthy and strong. Then, they care for and socialize the kittens until they are two months old and weigh two pounds.

Once the kittens reach the two-pound milestone, they're old enough to be brought back to the shelter to be spayed or neutered and put up for adoption.

Your shelter can implement a Wait Until 8 program, too.

Visit www.alleycat.org/WaitUntil8. 

THE TRANSFORMERS: SAN JOSE EMBRACES SHELTER-NEUTER-RETURN



The SNR program at the San Jose Animal Care Center keeps thousands of cats in their outdoor homes and out of the shelter.

When Alley Cat Allies visited the San Jose Animal Care Center earlier this year, all the adoptable cat cages were *empty*. Each cat had been adopted or returned to their outdoor home. This should be every shelter's goal!

In most shelters, cats fill all or most of the cages, which leads to more cats being killed for space, and drains shelter resources and taxpayer dollars. Many cats brought to shelters are community cats, who are not socialized, or friendly toward people, and are not adoptable.

The difference in San Jose is its Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR) program, which has kept thousands of cats out of the shelter since 2009. With SNR, community cats who are brought to the shelter are spayed and neutered, vaccinated, eartipped, microchipped, and returned to their outdoor homes.

Shelter staff said the facility had transformed to fit the needs of the SNR program, and that led to its success.

"We've had some of the program's original cats come back into the shelter for a checkup this year," said Lorraine Gomez, shelter coordinator. "These cats are safe and happy living outdoors. Why keep them in the shelter when we can just take them back to where they're already at home?" 🐾

RESOURCES CORNER



Alley Cat Allies is proud to support cat advocates and caregivers from across the country and around the world. In 2018 we helped nearly 10,000 people from 29 countries. An average of 110,000 people view our webinars monthly, take action on

our action center, consult our resources, and more.

Here are some of our new and updated resources:

Advocacy Toolkit: Let this guide help you become a skilled champion for cats. Learn how to fight harmful laws, help sound laws get passed, and spring into action when cats are threatened.

Learn more at alleycat.org/AdvocacyToolkit

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) Fact Sheets: Learn the symptoms and treatment options for these diseases, and why FIV and FeLV are not a death sentence for community cats.

Learn more at alleycat.org/FIV and alleycat.org/FeLV

Anti-cruelty resources: What would you do if you witnessed cruelty or if a cat you cared for was harmed? Our resources tell you how to report it and help get justice. **Learn more at alleycat.org/AntiCruelty**

"All About" video series: Learn about topics involving cats with our fun, informative series, which includes spaying and neutering and Trap-Neuter-Return. Be on the lookout for more as we roll them out!

Watch at youtube.com/AlleyCatAllies. 🐾



FROM RECOVERY TO REUNION: TRUE TALES OF THE CAMP FIRE CATS

(continued from page 1)

Dixie

Three months after the Camp Fire separated Lisa H. from her beautiful cat, Dixie, she'd lost hope for a reunion. Lisa H. left her information with the Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center® in case Dixie was brought in. Then she got a call: Dixie had been rescued and was at the recovery center! It was the day before Lisa H.'s birthday when she finally held her cat in her arms again.

Ghost

This handsome gray cat had two cases of mistaken identity before finding his family. After the recovery center rescued Ghost in December, two different people arrived hoping he was theirs. Thankfully, the third time was the charm. Kathryn L. knew the moment she walked in that the gray cat was hers. Now Ghost is back with Kathryn L. where he belongs.

Camp Fire recovery continues and our work for cats is far from over.

Support the Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center® at alleycat.org/RecoveryCenter. 



Lisa H. embraces her cat, Dixie. They were reunited at the Alley Cat Allies Recovery Center® in February.

PROFILE IN COMPASSION: KEITH WILLIAMS



Since January 2010 C5 has saved over 32,000 community cats with Trap-Neuter-Return.


retirement, working solely out of his garage, or even his cat allergy, curb his enthusiasm for saving cats' lives with Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). Since it began in 2009, C5 has helped more than 35,000 cats!

On any given morning, you'll find Keith Williams, founder and president of nonprofit Community Cat Coalition of Clark County (C5) in Las Vegas, awake at the crack of dawn to drive dozens of newly spayed and neutered cats back to their outdoor homes.

It's a typical day for Williams. He hasn't let

Alley Cat Allies President and Founder Becky Robinson recognized C5's amazing work when she was the keynote speaker at its annual event in Las Vegas in 2018.

Williams works closely with caregivers and advocates who together manage more than 2,800 community cat colonies around the Las Vegas area. Residents are seeing the difference as far fewer kittens are born in their neighborhoods. C5 is run entirely by donations, fueled by fundraising events, and driven by dedicated volunteers.

"We work hard to build and maintain a good relationship with the community," Williams says. "It's vital that resources like TNR are put directly out into the community, where the animals also live. It's the core of our efforts." 

PLANNED GIVING PROFILE: WENDY AVERILL



Amber, a valued member of Wendy's family.

38 years. She values education and finds it especially important to teach children about compassion, particularly for cats, whose lives often aren't valued, she says.

Cats have always been a part of Wendy Averill's life, whether she's caring for her own cats, or carrying out Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).


"There's a majesty, grace, and intelligence that cats have," she says.

Wendy is a retired elementary school teacher from Los Angeles who taught for

Wendy says she has been a longtime donor to Alley Cat Allies because we're a voice for cats and promote humane programs, like low-cost spay and neuter and TNR, as well as education and outreach.

"Nobody is promoting this in this way that you are," she says of Alley Cat Allies. "You're out there at the forefront. You're educating people."

Wendy says she decided to include Alley Cat Allies in her estate plan so that our mission to protect and save cats is funded for the future.

"I have been concerned about my life on earth counting for something," she shared. 

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...or scorned.



PURRS to **Kilgore, Texas**, for partnering with local nonprofits to implement a citywide Trap-Neuter-Return program in 2019.



HISSES to **Palmerton, Pennsylvania**, for fining a local woman for feeding community cats. Learn why feeding bans are cruel and ineffective at alleycat.org/FeedingBan.



PURRS to **Virginia** for unanimously passing bill SB1604 that increases the penalty from misdemeanor to felony for the abuse of cats and dogs. The bill was signed into law on March 18, 2019.



HISSES to **Nebraska** for introducing a bill that would strip local governments of their power to prohibit pet stores from selling cats and dogs from large-scale commercial pet breeders such as catteries and puppy mills, which are known for their cruel conditions.

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 action alerts and other emails.
alleycat.org/SignUp