A HELPING PAW FOR CATS DURING COVID-19

Alley Cat Allies’ mission, no matter the circumstances or challenges, is to improve the lives of cats (like Squeak, who you’ll learn about very soon). We believe each cat and kitten is an individual whose life has intrinsic value and deserves actions taken with their best interests at heart. We know you do, too.

So when COVID-19 shook our world, we immediately connected with cat advocates in a wide range of communities to provide emergency funding when it was needed most.

Here are just some of the stories of cats and kittens we’ve protected this year. Our supporters like you make it all possible, and we thank you deeply.

I spent hours on the phone, and thanks to your support I could say YES to groups who needed help! -B.R.

Right now, pet and community cats are being captured, tortured, brutally killed, and sold for human consumption in many parts of the world.

Please join Alley Cat Allies in pledging to end it.

Sign and share the pledge today: alleycat.org/CatMeatTrade

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As the COVID-19 pandemic gained momentum and turned into a global disaster that will define a generation, the doors at Alley Cat Allies remained open. Thanks to you, we are responding to save cats and kittens while supporting cat protection groups everywhere that have been disrupted by the virus. We are meeting the tremendous need that exists, and we are doing it only through your support.

Many people may not realize the breadth of how Alley Cat Allies is helping right now. In this edition of Alley Cat Action® we are eager to share the stories of some of the cats and kittens we’ve protected through our extensive COVID-19 emergency response. I also want to share with you my personal thoughts on the lifesaving work we are doing together. You’ll find my notes throughout this newsletter!

At Alley Cat Allies, we take our role very seriously as the leaders of a global movement to protect cats and kittens. At our core, we are people who believe each cat has her own intrinsic value and deserves to be protected—including and especially during these difficult times. We have over half a million supporters, like you, who feel the same way.

We have so many stories, successes, and important resources to share in these pages. For more COVID-19 information, visit alleycat.org/Coronavirus. If you have questions, share them with us at alleycat.org/GetHelp. Alley Cat Allies will continue our important mission because of you who stand by cats and kittens, no matter the challenge.

For the cats,

Becky Robinson
President andFounder

Connect with me online

/ACAPresident /FeralBecky

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 end outdated and deadly policies.
**Lifesaving Resources to Help You Save Cats**

Here are some of our new and updated guides:

**NEW**

**The Cat Socialization Continuum Guide**  
The first of its kind anywhere! You’ll learn the many degrees of socialization, meaning comfort around humans, in cats and how to apply that knowledge to save their lives.

> alleycat.org/SocializationGuide

**NEW**

**All About the Vacuum Effect Video** (on YouTube!)  
Animal shelters and local governments need to know: Catching and killing cats will NOT reduce the number of cats outdoors over time. The Vacuum Effect is the reason why.

> alleycat.org/VacuumEffectVideo

**UPDATED**

**A Guide to Getting Legal Help**  
There are several scenarios where you might find yourself in need of a lawyer to assist with an animal-related matter. This guide will help you find the right one.

> alleycat.org/FindALawyer

**UPDATED**

**High-Quality, High-Volume (HQHV) Spay and Neuter Clinic Guide**  
This guide outlines our tried-and-true approach to running one of these important clinics.

> alleycat.org/HQHV

These resources are helping people protect cats right now! -B.R.

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**Overheard Online**

*From supporters like you!*

“I have watched this organization over the years, and I give them a Triple A+ for their work and integrity. You couldn’t donate to a better animal protection organization.” – Martha M.W.

“My website alleycat.org has been invaluable to me over the years. Every single presentation I have given to various HOA boards, college campuses, and property managers, I use information from your resources. Thank you for everything that you do!” – Anonymous

We’re listening and we appreciate it! -B.R.

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**Global Cat Day 2020**

Tell us how you took a stand for cats on October 16. We may share your story!

Give us the details at alleycat.org/TellUs.

I’m looking forward to hearing from you! -B.R.

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Christine Livengood is what we would call a lifelong ally. She’s been a dedicated donor to Alley Cat Allies since she learned about our work all the way back in 1992, when our organization was only two years old!

“I believe that cats who live outdoors need to have a respected place in our world, too,” says Christine. “So, when I learned that Alley Cat Allies was making the first wide-ranging efforts to advise various cities and counties to stop trying to get rid of these cats, I wanted to support that.”

Christine has given on behalf of cats ever since—and she didn’t stop there. She has also written letters to the editor about Alley Cat Allies and shared what she learned with her community.

Now retired in Arizona, Christine spends her time enjoying the company of her two 10-year-old cats, Jenny and Gabby, and continues to donate to support our lifesaving programs. And when she thinks back on the past decades, she’s amazed at how far the movement has come.

“When I recently moved to my current community, local organizations already knew about Alley Cat Allies and were operating with humane programs,” she says. “It was good to see how much has changed.”

The dedication of our loyal donors like Christine is helping us protect and improve the lives of countless cats, like Twix, pictured above.

Keep Cats’ Claws On Their Paws!

Whether you’ve been a donor for 3 months or 30 years, THANK YOU!

-B.R.
Squeak—The Tiny Tabby

Adorable Squeak from Alabama needed a helping hand with an injured leg when she was brought by a good Samaritan to Spay/Neuter Action Project (SNAP). Our emergency grant to SNAP came at the right time to treat Squeak, and the many cats and kittens like her who need help while animal services are limited by COVID-19.

Today, Squeak is healthy and strong and her leg has healed!

A Cat Named Dobby

A former member of a large feline family living near a Louisiana bayou, Dobby was neutered and vaccinated thanks to our emergency funding to nonprofit organization Big Sky Ranch/CATNIP Foundation.

Now Dobby has a new home with a great kitty brother. His feline family members who are not socialized were spayed and neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped through TNR and thrive in their outdoor home.

In addition to Dobby, our COVID-19 support has enabled CATNIP Foundation to save hundreds of cats, as well as boost public education on protecting cats during the pandemic and beyond.

Kitten Siblings in California

When Joe and Tina found a tiny kitten with bold black markings under a bush in their yard—and then five more soon after—they were stumped as to what to do. That’s where our emergency funding to FieldHaven Feline Center in Lincoln, California, came in.

Our COVID-19 funding sponsors FieldHaven Feline Center’s Kitten Sitters program, which provides its community with education and supplies to “Kitten Sit” young kittens, meaning to watch over the mother cat as she raises them.

Most important, Joe and Tina learned the right way to approach the kittens: Leave Them Be™ with their mother cat until they’re 2 months old and can be spayed or neutered.

Today, the kittens, who were given cute names like Lloyd, Mika, Sampson, and Steve, are all in loving adoptive homes. Their unsocialized mother is spayed and lives outdoors in Joe and Tina’s garden, where she is happy and thriving.

We also worked with CATNIP Foundation to save cats during the 2016 Louisiana floods and Hurricanes Harvey in 2017 and Laura in 2020. -B.R.
Carolyn C. admitted that she was nervous to adopt Bleu at first. She’d never had a cat like him before—a cat with Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV).

Not to worry, we told her. Though they have weaker immune systems, cats with FeLV and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) can live fulfilling and happy lives like any other cats—and can live for many years.

Besides, Bleu made his choice. He jumped right onto Carolyn’s lap the moment they met!

Carolyn has since learned just how right we were. Bleu is chipper and affectionate. Every trip to the veterinarian confirms he is healthy and strong.

Cats like Bleu are why Alley Cat Allies educates communities on the truth about FeLV and FIV. Recently, we updated our resources to make it easier than ever to understand the science behind these retroviruses and the cats who have them. You can find them at alleycat.org/FIVandFeLV.

As for Bleu, he’s living the dream life. “He follows me wherever I go and holds conversations with me,” says Carolyn. “I’m so glad he chose me to be his person.”