

ALLEY CAT ACTION®

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | alleycat.org | FALL 2020

For Alley Cat Allies' More Than Half a Million Supporters and Activists

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.



Lloyd is one of the many kittens our COVID-19 emergency funding has protected.

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. *(continued on page 5)*



Thanks to our COVID-19 response work, young mother cat CeeCee and her kittens got the critical care they needed.

With notes from Becky, our president!

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




**END THE
CAT MEAT
TRADE**

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.

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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.

↙
We didn't miss a single day. We will always be here for cats. -B.R.



For the cats,

Becky Robinson
President and Founder

Connect with me online



/ACAPresident



/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 end outdated and deadly policies.

LIFESAVING RESOURCES TO HELP YOU SAVE CATS

Here are some of our new and updated guides:



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



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

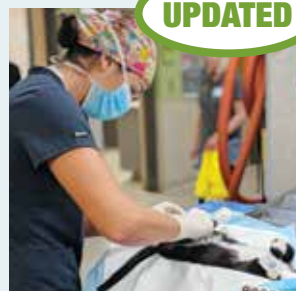


All About the Vacuum Effect Video (on YouTube!)

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



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.

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.



"Your 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.



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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PLANNED GIVING PROFILE: CHRISTINE LIVENGOOD

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!



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

"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."

whether you've been a donor for 3 months or 30 years, THANK YOU! -B.R.

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



Alley Cat Allies and THE PAW PROJECT

are advocating to protect cats and ban **declawing**

The surgical **amputation** of the last joints of a cat's toes



Major health authorities agree that **declawing cats** to protect humans, even those with autoimmune disorders, **is not advised**



NEW YORK

First state to ban declawing

15 OTHER STATES and multiple localities

are considering declaw ban legislation

42+

countries **DO NOT DECLAW** because it's **ILLEGAL** or considered **UNETHICAL**



bluepearl



Banfield PET HOSPITAL

which employ

10%

of all veterinarians in the United States and Canada

have positions **against declawing**

Keep Cats' Claws On Their Paws!

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Learn more: alleycat.org/NoDeclawing

A HELPING PAW FOR CATS DURING COVID-19 (continued from page 1)

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!



← She's safe now because of you. This is the power of our movement.
-B.R.

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.



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.

Dobby relaxes in his new home. He and his feline family got the help they needed because of our supporters like you!

Kitten Siblings in California



Steve and Sampson are two of the many kittens our emergency COVID-19 funding has protected.

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.

Mother cats know what they're doing. Let them do it! -B.R.

NO NEED TO BE BLEU ABOUT FELV



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.

Too few people know this! -B.R.

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."

Testing cats for FeLV and FIV should not lead to their death.

A test for FeLV or FIV can result in a false positive. Yet, too many veterinarians and shelters still kill cats just for testing positive for FIV or FeLV...even if they show no symptoms. Today, many shelters are implementing lifesaving programs for cats who test positive.

Alley Cat Allies is working to end the killing. Please join us in spreading the word: **no cat should be killed as a result of a positive FIV or FeLV test.**



I was lucky enough to meet Bleu. He's the sweetest cat who deserves the best life. -B.R.

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 and kittens.
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