

ALLEY CAT ACTION®

Fun
Game
Inside! p.4

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | alleycat.org | WINTER 2021

For Alley Cat Allies' Over Half a Million Supporters and Activists Across the Nation and Around the World

CASPER CATS GET HELP FROM FRIENDS



Alley Cat Allies took action to save the lives of cats in Casper, Wyoming.

There's no time like mealtime for community cat Lady Jane and her feline family members Skye and Marbles. When Laura, their caregiver, pulls up to their outdoor home in Casper, Wyoming, with cat food in hand, they come running to greet her. They're content, knowing they can rely on having a full belly every day.

Yet that comfort came close to being ripped away, until Alley Cat Allies stepped in to help local advocates beat the odds to save the lives of community cats across the city.

Late last year, the City of Casper nearly enacted a law to criminalize feeding cats outdoors...before people in Casper even knew the proposal was on the table.

"I felt sick. I lost sleep. I was terrified for my colonies," said Laura when she first learned about the ban. At that time, the ordinance had already passed in two meetings and was racing toward a final vote.

Not only would the proposal harm and kill animals, it would effectively outlaw local advocates' longtime efforts to establish and

(continued on page 5)



In far too many communities, cats' lives are threatened by outdated laws and policies.



Our resources will help you take action for cats in 2021

The people of Casper did it. You can, too!

ADVOCACY TOOLKIT:

Learn the basics in citizen lobbying and prepare to advocate for humane laws and policies for cats.

alleycat.org/AdvocacyToolkit

CATS AND THE LAW:

Discover how to find and understand your local and state laws that impact cats and kittens.

alleycat.org/FindCatLaws

UNDERSTANDING YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ANIMAL CONTROL:

You have a right to know how your government operates as it pertains to animals. Learn how to obtain that information.

alleycat.org/LocalGovernment

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's a brave new world in 2021. In the past year we all had to bend like rubber, go with the flow, and become more aware than ever of the needs of our communities—people and animals.

But with your help, Alley Cat Allies' commitment to a better world for cats stood firm and pressed ever forward through the enormous challenges of 2020. And we were far from alone. As critical resources to protect animals dwindled because of the pandemic, people stepped up on an unprecedented level to fill in the gaps—and we showed them new avenues to save lives.

In 2020, Alley Cat Allies received DOUBLE the calls of any previous year from individuals who made it their mission to help cats in need. When shelters were forced to shut their doors during lockdowns, we found an incredible opportunity to demonstrate that protecting cats should be a community effort, not a matter of calling animal control. More people took in foster animals and began to care for community cats themselves.

In December, the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to resume - and fund! - the Citywide Cat Program, under which 20,000 community cats will be spayed and neutered each year. The vote dealt a decisive blow to anti-cat forces, and it brings to an end a

decade-long stalemate during which the city was legally barred from conducting Trap-Neuter-Return. The City of Angels is now the largest municipality in the country to have embraced non-lethal cat population management.

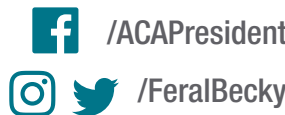
I hope these victories remind you that whatever world we envision, we can create—no matter the trials ahead. In this edition of Alley Cat Action®, we'll show you the world we at Alley Cat Allies are working toward. We're sharing how we're protecting cats with your steadfast support and how we plan to save even more lives this year and in all the years to come.



For the cats,

Becky Robinson
President and Founder

Connect with me online



Answers For Crossword (pg 4)

- Across**
- 1. Local, 5. Outdoors, 8. Socialization,
 - 11. Advocate, 12. Global, 15. Thirty
- Down**
- 2. Caregiver, 3. Community, 4. Vaccination,
 - 6. Fells catus, 7. Boardwalk, 9. All, 10. Feral,
 - 13. Earthp, 14. Abe

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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 has received 6 consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator.

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.



THROUGH HIGH WATER



The COVID-19 crisis has impacted our communities in so many ways. Now imagine weathering one of the strongest hurricanes to hit your area on top of that. Add in dozens of community cats and kittens in the storm's path, many of whom are not yet spayed or neutered.

Now you know a little of the situation in DeQuincy, Louisiana, when Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta thundered in late last year.

Don't worry, this harrowing story has a happy ending. Alley Cat Allies helped make sure of it.

Months before the storms, our president and founder Becky Robinson had reached out to Louisiana organization and friend Big Sky Ranch/CATNIP Foundation to connect their team with a DeQuincy caregiver struggling to care for multiple colonies of cats...with no local access to a low-cost veterinarian.

This new relationship became the catalyst for an enormous lifesaving effort when the hurricanes swept in.

DeQuincy was hit hard by the disasters, and the local cat colonies needed help more urgently than ever.



Our emergency funding made it possible for CATNIP Foundation to treat and find homes for a number of kittens during 2020 disasters and the COVID-19 crisis, including these sweet siblings.

Because CATNIP Foundation was already in contact with their caregiver, its team could respond right away.

The final piece to the puzzle slotted into place when Alley Cat Allies provided a hurricane relief grant. With that critical funding, CATNIP Foundation kicked into high gear to transport, treat, spay and neuter, and then adopt or return more than 100 cats and kittens.

“Alley Cat Allies helped from start to finish, from introducing us to [the caregiver] to the hurricane relief funding,” said Big Sky Ranch/CATNIP Foundation co-founder and CEO Dr. Catherine Wilbert. “It meant we could help a ton of animals who would not have gotten that help otherwise.”

The takeaway? The most important aspect of our movement is the connections we foster within communities—especially during disaster scenarios.

Because coming together today means we can save cats' lives tomorrow, whatever comes our way.

In addition to the hurricane support that saved the DeQuincy cats, Alley Cat Allies provided funding for cat rescue, veterinary care, food, and emergency supplies through other hurricanes, the historic wildfires in the west, and the COVID-19 crisis last year.

In 2021, our goal is to save even more lives by building stronger relationships between advocates, caregivers, and officials and providing the guidance communities need to prioritize teamwork and preparation for disasters.

We will work so no animal is left behind when the next hurricane or wildfire or tornado strikes.

EMERGENCY DOCUMENT BAG

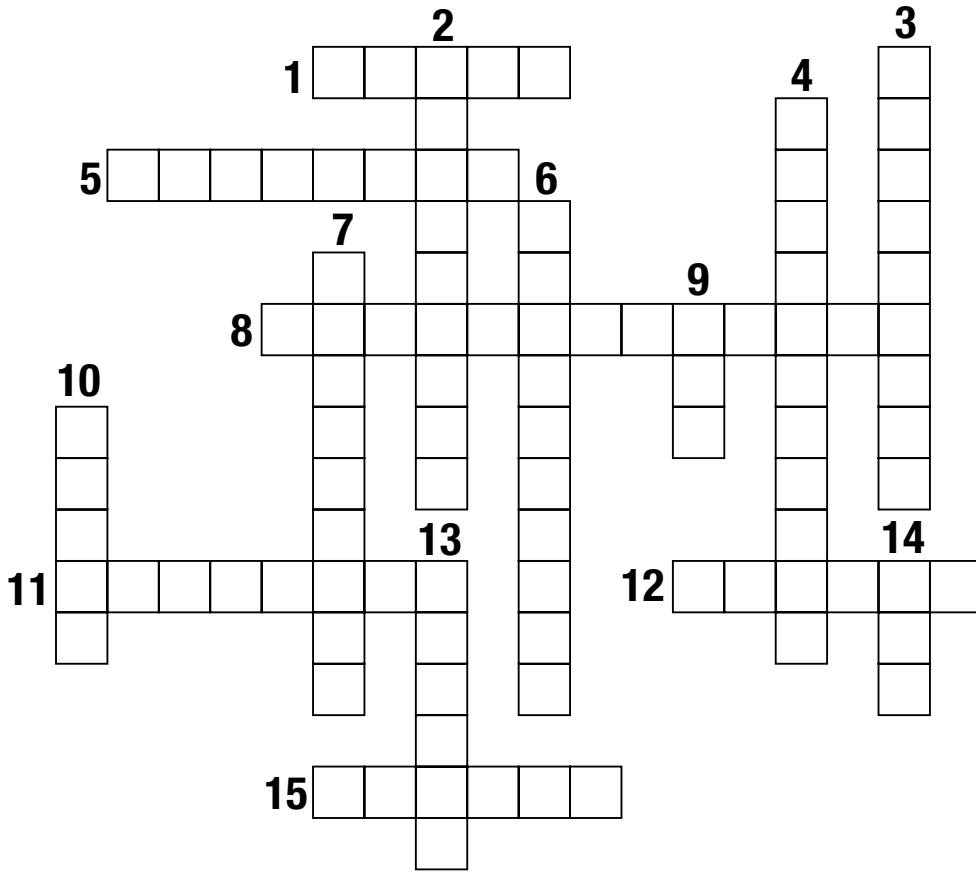


This special waterproof bag can safely store your animals' medical records in case of an emergency.

Get yours at alleycat.org/Shop for only \$3.50 plus shipping!

CAT ADVOCATE'S CROSSWORD

Put your knowledge of cats and our movement to the test.



Across

1. The level of government where cat legislation usually happens.
5. Where community cats live and thrive.
8. A cat's level of comfort around people is the level of ____.
11. Anyone can become a cat ____.
12. October 16 is ____ Cat Day.
15. Alley Cat Allies has been advocating for cats for over ____ years.

Down

2. Good Samaritan who cares for community cats.
3. Cats are a part of our ____.
4. A step of Trap-Neuter-Return that improves public health.
6. The scientific name of the domestic cat species.
7. The famous Atlantic City ____ Cats.
9. ____ cats deserve to live.
10. The term for cats who are not socialized to people.
13. The universal identifier of a spayed or neutered and & vaccinated community cat.
14. One of Becky's cats, and the first name of a U.S. President.

You can find the answers on page 2.

YOU SAVED THEIR LIVES

Because of our supporters like you, Alley Cat Allies could provide emergency funding to protect cats and kittens throughout the disasters in 2020.

Here are some of their stories:

GAMBIT



LOUISIANA

Snowshoe gentleman Gambit, 12, lost his home when Hurricane Laura tore through Louisiana in late 2020. We ensured he was cared for in the aftermath, and he's since been adopted by a new family.

OPIE



NORTH CAROLINA

When tiny, 3-week-old Opie was spotted alone and unwell on a North Carolina beach, our funding helped rush him to lifesaving treatment. Opie is now recovered and is the most playful kitten!

SPECKLES



OREGON

Through Alley Cat Allies' emergency funding for Oregon wildfire relief last year, beautiful calico Speckles was rescued from a high-level fire zone, fed, and provided care until she could go home.

CASPER, WY, CATS GET HELP FROM FRIENDS (continued from page 1)

grow Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs to benefit cats and the community.

Blindsided by the looming final vote, caregivers and advocates wondered how—and if—they could stop the ban. Would Lady Jane and her family starve because of such a law?

Thankfully, these Casper advocates contacted Alley Cat Allies for help, and we acted urgently to prevent a tragic outcome.

We advised dedicated individuals, many of whom were new to grassroots advocacy, on how to rally their community. We put up billboards and alerted the news media to inform Casper residents about the ban. We encouraged local advocates to apply pressure by testifying before City Council, and enlisting others to join the opposition.

“We can’t have a feeding ban and a TNR program. The two are in opposition because you cannot trap a cat if you

Residents of Casper demonstrate outside of a City Council meeting on the feeding ban. Most were shocked by the proposal; they’d known nothing about it until it was almost too late.

can’t feed them,” Linda T., a key Casper advocate, told Council. “[TNR] has worked. And there are communities around Wyoming where it’s working right now. Let’s give Casper people a chance.”

As their constituents spoke, some councilmembers recognized that moving under the radar to pass the feeding ban had been unfair to the people of Casper—especially with the COVID-19 crisis occupying the community.

“We got a huge head start on the public. I mean, they weren’t even aware of this until the second reading,” Councilmember Shawn Johnson acknowledged.

Yet with our support, the will of the people saved the day at the last moment. Casper City Council rejected the feeding ban proposal and took a major step toward humane policies for cats. Now, Alley Cat Allies is helping local advocates to implement more TNR.

This was a victory, but the story of Casper brings to light a disturbing truth: ANY community could be the next to try passing a harmful animal law, even during the pandemic.

That is why Alley Cat Allies works on behalf of cats AND the people who care for them. Casper is proof that local governments can—and will—change their ways when we speak up.

In 2021, Alley Cat Allies will provide more new and experienced advocates the tools to discover, understand, and take action on laws that affect animals. That is how we create communities—and, ultimately, a world—that values and defends the lives of *all* cats.



Feeding bans are cruel and ineffective schemes that lead to the suffering of community cats and cripples efforts to carry out TNR.



Demonstrators gathered until late in the day to speak out for their community’s cats—and dogs. Tethering was another issue on the agenda.

PLANNED GIVING PROFILE: JAMAKA P.



Jamaka's beloved cat, Elvis, a handsome 13-year-old tuxedo.

Jamaka can't remember a time when she wasn't protecting cats. She says she was "born with cats" and grew up in a family that believes "every cat deserves to be loved."

Needless to say, on the issues that affect cats, Jamaka was ahead of the curve. She began to donate to Alley Cat Allies in 1992 because we are "the place to go for helping cats, nationally AND internationally."

Jamaka is a one-woman lifesaving powerhouse herself. As an independent advocate, she connects with concerned people over social media on all things cat, educates elected officials, and spreads the word about cats in her community who need rescue, foster, or adoption.

She wants everyone to know they can do the same.

"I shout from the rooftops every single day: What I'm doing is not special. ANYONE can do it," she says.

And to make sure her impact helps cats into the future, Jamaka has included Alley Cat Allies in her will.



Suha, Elvis' older "sister," was raised by Jamaka since she was a tiny kitten.

"I want my work to continue. There will be cats after all of us are gone, and they'll still need us."

When she's not advocating for cats 9 to 5, Jamaka enjoys the company of her own two cats, Elvis and Suha.

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



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS BECKY ROBINSON?

Our president and founder travels around the nation and the world to share her knowledge and meet with the people making a humane impact in cats' lives.



In 2020, Becky presented our top award, The Oliver to Mayor Marty Small Sr. of Atlantic City, New Jersey, for his collaboration with our Boardwalk Cats Project®.

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 online resources to help:



QUESTIONS?—Looking for assistance with cats? Get the help you need!
alleycat.org/GetHelp



DONATE—Support our work with 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