

ALLEY CAT ACTION®

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | alleycat.org | SPRING 2021

For Alley Cat Allies' Over 650,000 Supporters and Activists Across the Nation and Around the World

SAVING LIVES WITH BECKY ROBINSON ALLEY CAT ALLIES VETERINARY HOSPITAL



Cost should never be a barrier to saving a cat's life. At the Becky Robinson Alley Cat Allies Veterinary Hospital, we make sure it isn't.

Foundation. "At the Hospital, thanks to incredible support from Becky and Alley Cat Allies, we work with people to negotiate a price; we do anything and everything we can. The animals deserve no less."

Take a look within the Becky Robinson Alley Cat Allies Hospital and meet just some of the many cats and kittens it has treated, cared for, and saved. (continued on page 3)

The most challenging emergency surgeries. Spay and neuter—including Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). Cutting-edge therapies—from laser treatment to acupuncture. All at low cost. These are the incredible services provided for animals at the new **Becky Robinson Alley Cat Allies Veterinary Hospital** in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana!

The Hospital, named in honor of Alley Cat Allies' President and Founder Becky Robinson and operated by our friends at Big Sky Ranch/CATNIP Foundation, represents our commitment to long-term change for Louisiana's animals visible to caregivers and the public as brick and mortar. For many in the Louisiana area, veterinary care for animals can be hard to come by at an accessible price. Through funding from Alley Cat Allies, the Hospital is filling that gap in services, treating cats from 20 different parishes, and saving dozens of lives every day.

"Why should any animal not have access to a high level of care just because their owner or caregiver doesn't have a lot of resources?" says Dr. Catherine Wilbert, co-founder and CEO of Big Sky Ranch/CATNIP



Dozens of cats and kittens enter these doors each and every day to receive high-quality, lifesaving care.

BREAKING NEWS!



CALIFORNIA

The latest developments on our work to end the killing of cats by the East Bay Regional Park District in California: alleycat.org/EastBayParkCats

NEW SOUTH WALES, Australia



Our advocacy to end officially-sanctioned cat killing in New South Wales, Australia: alleycat.org/StocktonBreakwallCats

Stay updated on the rapidly evolving developments at alleycat.org/Campaigns



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out with the crowd;
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
I don't care if I never get back."*

Spring is in the air! One feels it everywhere. Life is slowly returning to normal.

I can't wait to spend an afternoon cheering for the home team, but we should not return to everything just how it was before. When it comes to cats, there was frankly a lot society was NOT doing right pre-pandemic.

Over the past 31 years, we at Alley Cat Allies, with your help and support, led a revolution in which Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) has become mainstream. However, there were—and are still—many laggards.

An unexpected silver lining of the COVID-19 crisis is that many animal shelters basically shut down in the early days. They stopped taking in trapped cats and no longer loaned traps to the public for "nuisance" trapping. This move saved the lives of thousands and thousands of cats and kittens. Cats who would have been rounded up and dropped off at shelters were left alone to live their lives.

This new protocol is working, and we want to make it

the new normal everywhere. Going forward, shelters should provide shelter to the few animals who need it while supporting nonlethal programs, including TNR, that keep community cats out of their buildings (unless only temporarily for TNR, of course).

We and other groups worked hard to see that TNR efforts continued over the past year, and we are now engaged in renewed TNR efforts to improve the lives of the cats.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Here's to building a better tomorrow with compassion as society's guiding post!



For the cats,

Becky Robinson
President and Founder

Connect with me online



/ACAPresident



/FeralBecky



Alley Cat Allies ALLEY CAT ACTION, Volume 31, Issue 3, SPRING 2021

7920 Norfolk Ave., Suite 600 • Bethesda, MD 20814-2525
Tel: 240-482-1980 • Fax: 240-482-1990
www.alleycat.org

© 2021 Alley Cat Allies. All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. We may make this material available for use by other groups, but none of it may be reproduced in any format without specific written permission from Alley Cat Allies.

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 7 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.



PIRELLI

Named after a tire brand (he and his feline family live behind a tire store!), Pirelli was brought to the Hospital as part of a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) effort. But as you can see, Pirelli was so socialized that he easily found an adoptive home to call his own! Others in his feline family were returned to their outdoor home.

FERN

Tiny tortie Fern came to be spayed and vaccinated—but during her exam, Dr. Wilbert found Fern's jaw was cracked. As with any emergency case like this, Hospital staff rushed Fern into surgery—and it went swimmingly! Today, Fern is all better and living the good life in her forever home.



INDAH

Cost should never be a barrier to a cat getting the vital treatment they need. Since receiving surgery and dedicated care including laser therapy to treat her spina bifida, at the Hospital, Indah has regained so much mobility in her once nearly

paralyzed back legs. Now she absolutely loves playing with other kittens and can even climb a cat tree!

YAMATO

Underweight and with a host of medical issues, Yamato needed a lot of TLC at the Hospital to get him back on his feet. He got that and then some—his adopter discovered him through photos online and instantly fell in love! Pictured here is Yamato back at the Hospital for a checkup, looking extra handsome after gaining a bunch of needed weight.



Spread the Word!

1. Cut out Darling
2. Find a nice spot outdoors
3. Pose with Darling and snap a pic
4. Post on social media using the hashtag **#FoundAKitten** and tagging **@alleycatallies**

Learn how to help at
alleycat.org/FoundAKitten



SMOOSH

Smoosh not only got a veterinary workup and neuter at the Hospital—he also found his new mom! Veterinary technician Venesia, pictured here holding Smoosh, fell in love with the little tuxedo kitten as she treated him. It's not surprising—after all, Smoosh is named after his affectionate tendency to “smoosh” his face into yours!

Visit alleycat.org/Hospital to learn more about the incredible impact of the Becky Robinson Alley Cat Allies Veterinary Hospital.

BECKY IN THE FIELD

Our President and Founder leads the movement to protect all cats—including close to home!

In the work I do as president and founder of Alley Cat Allies, I wear a different hat every day. Advocate, testifier, investigative reporter, liaison...the list goes on.

With so much on my plate, it's not often I get to dip into my "private TNR tutor" repertoire. But that's just what I became on a recent Sunday. With a storm on the horizon, my neighbor Jordyn knocked on my door to ask for help with a mother cat and her kittens she'd spotted outdoors near her workplace.



Zeus relaxes after receiving a veterinary workup. Jordyn and I made sure he, his sister, and his mother could be sterilized, vaccinated, and microchipped.

What followed was a wonderful whirlwind of an evening as I gave Jordyn a crash course in TNR. Together, we trapped mother cat Lena and her kittens Kristina and Zeus. The whole little family has since been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. Each time a cat entered a trap, Jordyn celebrated like it was a Super Bowl touchdown. I think she may have found

her calling (just as I did, more than 31 years ago)!

I extend a warm welcome and thank you to Jordyn, and to all the brave new TNR advocates out there. You're making a bigger impact than you may know, and it all brings us closer, step by step, to a world where all cats are valued and protected. **-Becky Robinson**



Along with testifying in favor of important bills for cats across the country, our ever-busy president and founder was featured on TV news in Washington, D.C., to educate viewers

on how they can protect and improve cats' lives.

Watch the Fox 5 DC coverage at [alleycat.org/Fox5DC](https://www.alleycat.org/Fox5DC)

OPIE, ALL GROWN UP



Then ↗

With expert care and a lot of love, Opie not only recovered—he thrived.

Today, Opie is living it up with his adoptive family, including a canine brother, and has grown into the most handsome cat. Talk about a glow up!

You might remember Opie, the tiny gray kitten from North Carolina who was rushed to lifesaving veterinary care thanks to our COVID-19 emergency grant last year. Well, we have the best update to share with you!

Now ↘



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](https://www.alleycat.org/GetHelp)



DONATE—Support our work with cats and kittens.
[alleycat.org/Donate](https://www.alleycat.org/Donate)



LEARN—Advocate for cats in your community.
[alleycat.org/CommunityChange](https://www.alleycat.org/CommunityChange)



TAKE ACTION—Receive our action alerts and other emails.
[alleycat.org/SignUp](https://www.alleycat.org/SignUp)

ENDING CAT KILLING IN PARKS

Alley Cat Allies is engaged in two incredibly important campaigns – one in Northern California and one in Australia – which get to the heart of what we are about. We're seeking to make justice and compassion the guiding principles for how our society treats cats.

Martin Luther King Jr., whose ideas influenced the animal advocacy movement, once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."



Rosie was a shooting victim at the Port of Newcastle. Cats in Newcastle and East Bay were already under effective management, vaccinated, microchipped, and not breeding because they were sterilized. Alley Cat Allies is working to stop policies that include lethal control.

Just before Christmas along a public beach jetty (breakwall) in Australia, a colony of sterilized community cats was shot at close range under order of the Newcastle Port Authority. Ten cats are missing, presumed killed. Others were severely injured and left for dead.

The same type of appalling institutionalized cruelty took place at nearly the same time, on the other side of the world.

The East Bay Regional Park District in Oakland, California, had 13 cats shot to death by an employee last fall. After killing them, he put their bodies in plastic bags and tossed them in a trash can. It's a bitter irony that the killing took place in a park named for Martin Luther King Jr., a man who devoted his life to nonviolence.

Why do parks kill cats? This barbarism is carried out by organizations that are clinging to the backward, discredited notion that killing cats is needed to help protect threatened and endangered species.

There is no scientific evidence to support this belief.

When cats are killed, new cats move in to take their place, making the killing not only vile but also pointless. This is a well-documented scientific phenomenon

known as the Vacuum Effect.

We prioritize compassion for all animals. Alley Cat Allies fully supports the protection of ecosystems and wildlife in East Bay, Newcastle, and everywhere. But the truth is that we can defend all animals without inflicting suffering and death on other animals.

Poll after poll shows that people overwhelmingly favor Trap-Neuter-Return and other nonlethal cat population management over killing (Harris Interactive, 2007 & 2017).

There is nothing in the U.S. Endangered Species Act requiring anyone to kill cats. Many park officials are mistaken on that point. We are working to set their thinking straight, just as we are about their view that they can "kill their way" to lower cat populations.

There is never a justification for shooting and killing cats, under any circumstances.

With your help, we plan to build a better tomorrow, starting today. The task before us is as hard as it is important, but together we can, and we will, build a more humane and just society.



Alley Cat Allies is collaborating with Australia's Animal Justice Party (AJP) to ensure cats are not shot again. "I'll be calling for funding and legislative changes that will support TNR programs in Parliament," says Emma Hurst, Member of Parliament from the AJP.



Alley Cat Allies is fighting to stop a management approach by the East Bay Regional Park District that still includes the killing of cats, despite public outcry. Cats and birds can both be protected. Lethal control is ineffective and the public does not support it.

PROFILE IN COMPASSION: FERAL FRIENDS IN ARGENTINA

Almas Felinas sin hogar (Homeless Feline Souls)

If there is any one thing that transcends borders, it's our love for animals. So it should come as no surprise that Alley Cat Allies' Feral Friends Network®, comprised of people, experts, and veterinary professionals working to help cats and the people who care for them, represents countries all over the map.

In General Roca, Argentina, a city of 86,000, Feral Friends Network member *Almas Felinas sin hogar* has spayed and neutered thousands of cats in urban and rural areas. In the process, the organization has become a model for the entire nation, hosting TNR workshops and trainings for other Argentinian cat protection groups.



Argentina now has a strong model for a TNR program that can be put into action around the country.

Almas Felinas sin hogar—which learned the ropes of TNR from Alley Cat Allies' website—is making big waves in a country where services for cats are in critical demand. Founder Dr. Rubén Saldía says three provinces that have historically lacked laws to protect cats are now considering bills to recognize TNR as the only ethical approach to outdoor cat populations. Saldía and co-founder Vanesa Asencio helped draft those bills.

“Thanks to our work, with visible positive results, many people of our city, municipal authorities, and other groups from the country ask us now for help and advice on application of TNR,” says Saldía.



Since learning about TNR from Alley Cat Allies in 2017, the two-person team at Almas Felinas sin hogar has neutered more than 2000 cats.

To find a Feral Friend near you or to join the Network, visit alleycat.org/FeralFriends.

FORGET-ME-NOT LEGACY SOCIETY

Leave a gift of care
and protection for cats

Your legacy can be their lives saved.

By naming Alley Cat Allies as a beneficiary in your will through the Forget-Me-Not Legacy Society, you ensure we can continue to protect cats for generations to come.

Visit alleycat.org/PlannedGiving for more information. To learn about your giving options, contact us at **1-866-309-6207** or plannedgiving@alleycat.org.

DARLING ON THE GO: SHARE HOW WE CAN PROTECT KITTENS!

The warm months of spring are here—which means we'll be seeing more and more kittens outdoors!

Help us spread the word on the best ways to protect kittens by visiting alleycat.org/FoundAKitten.

Then, cut out Darling and follow the directions on the back to share the message on social media!



Alley Cat Allies

© 2021 Alley Cat Allies.
All rights reserved.

