

# MEET CINDY RONGIONE, ATLANTIC CITY'S FIRST HUMANE OFFICER

Atlantic City is home to our successful Boardwalk Cats Project, launched by Becky Robinson in 2000 to carry out Trap-Neuter-Return for the cats living there. In an exciting new step to combat cruelty and protect the city's animals, the Atlantic City Police Department has created its first full-time humane law enforcement position. Officer Cindy Rongione was appointed and has been familiar to us for many years.

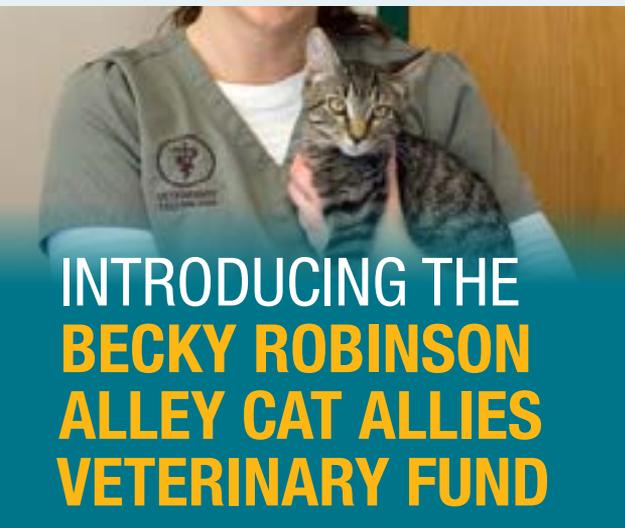
"I am honored to be the first to hold this vital position," says Officer Rongione. "Atlantic City does not tolerate cases of animal cruelty, and we value the leadership from Becky and the Alley Cat Allies team on this issue. I look forward to strengthening community engagement and protection for the animals who live among us."

"The leaders of the Atlantic City Police Department have taken an important step by dedicating the resources to make Atlantic City the safest city in the country for animals," says Becky.

*We are proud to be part of Atlantic City where the leadership are on the cutting-edge of animal protection. -B.R.*



Officer Cindy Rongione at the Atlantic City Boardwalk, where Alley Cat Allies' close relationship with Atlantic City was forged 21 years ago through our Boardwalk Cats Project®.



## INTRODUCING THE BECKY ROBINSON ALLEY CAT ALLIES VETERINARY FUND

Cost should never be a barrier to saving lives. This new fund is dedicated to meeting the medical needs of animals and supporting veterinary practices in their invaluable work. There's much more to come on this exciting and vital resource, so stay tuned!

*We are here to support cats AND the veterinarians who protect them. -B.R.*

## YOU SHOULD KNOW...

*Here's what is happening in the movement right now!*

### AUSTRALIA

Alley Cat Allies continues to pursue justice and policy change for the cats maimed and killed in a government-ordered massacre.

### PLUM, PENNSYLVANIA

Ignorant to the facts, Plum officials passed a feeding ban for community cats. Alley Cat Allies is working to save lives.

### ILLINOIS ANIMAL RIGHTS BILL

Illinois passed a historic bill that prevents pet stores from selling cats and dogs, increases sterilization options for shelters, and more!

### DELAWARE

A court ruled that a landlord's attempt to evict residents for caring for community cats couldn't stand, setting an important precedent. Becky Robinson's expert testimony was instrumental in this trial!

*We're doing far more work than can fit in these pages—and it's all thanks to you! -B.R.*

# PLANNED GIVING PROFILE: LEE GIBSON

The members of Alley Cat Allies' Forget-Me-Not Legacy Society are incredible, compassionate people who leave a legacy of love for cats by naming Alley Cat Allies as a beneficiary in their will. Many of these dedicated cat allies were first inspired by a single cat, who opened their eyes to the needs of cats and kittens in their community and around the world.

For Lee Gibson, who has donated to Alley Cat Allies for nearly two decades, the catalyst was a stray cat named Kitkat. "He picked me," Lee says of Kitkat, who followed him home 22 years ago.

"Kitkat and I had 13 great years together," Lee says. "He's how I became interested in cats."



*Max, Lee's newly adopted cat who inspires him to continue to donate to Alley Cat Allies and help save the lives of cats and kittens. "Max may just be the best cat ever," Lee says.*

Interest became investment became action for Lee, who helped care for campus community cats at the Dallas, Texas, university where he teaches writing. With all the cats who have touched his heart, naming Alley Cat Allies in his will felt only natural.

"It instantly seemed like something I'd want to do," Lee explains. "I see cats all the time, in alleys, at the school, walking down the street. I felt like they should have as much help as they can get, and I wanted to do my part."

*Thank you to all who give. Every gift, big or small, helps us save cats' lives. -B.R.*

Learn how you can invest in a brighter future for cats with a planned gift at [alleycat.org/PlannedGiving](https://alleycat.org/PlannedGiving) (CFC #10964) (EIN #52-1742079) or for more information, call **866-309-6207**.



## Global Cat Day is October 16!

## GlobalCatDay.org



### 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://alleycat.org/GetHelp)



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



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



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

# ALLEY CAT ACTION<sup>®</sup>

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org) | SUMMER 2021

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

## ANIMAL CRUELTY HAS MANY FORMS. WE CONFRONT THEM ALL.

Were it not for a chilling call to Alley Cat Allies, Louie would not be alive today. The black and white cat,



*Just look at Louie now! Because we moved swiftly to save him from his cruel situation, he is growing up safe and healthy.*

he weighed only three pounds.

A different horror story unfolded in Oakland, California, months later. Armed with a rifle, a park employee shot 13 cats in a series of nighttime

***What happened to Louie and to the cats in the Oakland park are unmistakable and unimaginable acts of animal cruelty.***

we were told over the phone, was on death's door at just one year of age—the result of months of deliberate starvation by his owner. Rushed to a veterinary hospital in Washington, D.C., for urgent care,

expeditions in a small urban park during October and November of 2020. He tossed their bodies in a trash can and referred to the dead cats as “party favors” to his colleagues.

Louie suffered at the hands of an individual. The Oakland cats were killed because a powerful, publicly funded institution refuses to let go of an outdated—and disproven—set of beliefs. The East Bay Regional Park District (East Bay Parks) wrongly believes that killing cats is an effective and morally acceptable way to try and protect wildlife. It is not. What it is, is cruelty.

*(continued on page 3)*



*Alley Cat Allies President and Founder Becky Robinson lays flowers at the memorial for the 13 cats shot and killed in late 2020 by park staff in the East Bay Regional Park District.*

*Today, Louie is a healthy 11 pounds and is a much-loved family member. He enjoys chasing his new feline sister, Siouxsie. -B.R.*

*With notes from Becky, our president!*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For 31 years, Alley Cat Allies has fought to defend cats by confronting cruelty in all its forms. We advocate to stop the abusive practices in our shelters, our parks, and other agencies that have killed generations of cats. We have been successful in reversing hundreds of deadly local ordinances and several state laws, and replacing them with modern, humane methods that now protect cats.

In three decades, we have created and lead a movement. Our work in the trenches and in the halls of government are part of our vision to create a society that reflects our values of compassion and coexistence with animals. The nonlethal approaches we promote have been scientifically proven time and time again.

The threats to cats are real and must be challenged. Our campaigns range from individual cases like the inspiring story of Louie, to cases of institutionalized killing, which is why we are fighting for cats in California's East Bay Parks.

Your unwavering support enables us to work tirelessly to stop cruelty. This is why I ask for your continued support and your help to recruit others to join us and become the voice for cats. Together, we are making a more humane world that is better for cats.



For the cats,



Becky Robinson  
President and Founder

*We need young people, our future leaders, to recognize cruelty against cats and add strength to this movement! -B.R.*

**Connect with me online:**



 **Alley Cat Allies**<sup>®</sup> ALLEY CAT ACTION, Volume 31, Issue 4, SUMMER 2021

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

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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.

# ANIMAL CRUELTY HAS MANY FORMS. WE CONFRONT THEM ALL.

*(continued from page 1)*

Alley Cat Allies will always fight against cruelty, regardless of who perpetrates it. We fight for stronger anti-cruelty legislation and enforcement of laws, and we fight against institutional cruelty.

Once Louie was safe in our care, we connected with humane investigators. His abuser was prosecuted and brought to justice.

In the case of East Bay, we are tapping into every legal avenue in our quest to overturn East Bay Parks' ongoing lethal policy. And, we are educating and mobilizing grassroots advocates to stand united against institutionalized cruelty because the voice of the people is the most powerful force for change.

*I wrote to the prosecutor in Oakland urging criminal charges. -B.R.*



*We rescued this kitten, her siblings, and many more kittens from cruel, dangerous conditions. Now they're recovering and thriving in loving homes.*

Alley Cat Allies does not tolerate animal cruelty in any form, from individuals or government institutions. We know you don't either. Our legacy together has already caused a sea of change in how society treats cats, and we won't stop until all are protected.

## SHOOTING CATS IS CRUEL

Hunting down, shooting, and killing cats is the worst form of cruelty imaginable. Yet, despite massive outcry from local residents and people around the world, the East Bay Regional Park District in California still sanctions this horrific slaughter on its parklands.

Alley Cat Allies is at the forefront of the fight to end East Bay Parks' lethal policy, which took the lives of 18 cats in 2020 alone. Any killing of cats ordered by a taxpayer-funded park district is unacceptable, and it is overwhelmingly rejected by East Bay residents.

We won't stop until the killing does. Please join us.

[alleycat.org/EastBayParkCats](http://alleycat.org/EastBayParkCats)



*Show your support at [alleycat.org/Shop](http://alleycat.org/Shop) -B.R.*



## SPEAK OUT FOR LOUIE

Alley Cat Allies works to ensure no cat is made to suffer like Louie, who was subjected to unbelievable cruelty. We can't do it without you. Cats and all animals deserve to live free from harm. Speak out on their behalf.

[alleycat.org/SpeakOutForLouie](http://alleycat.org/SpeakOutForLouie)

*This work is personal to all of us. Add the cat who is YOUR call to action! -B.R.*





# MAKING STRIDES WITH MICROCHIPPING

Microchips save lives—but, only if someone scans for them. This year, Texas turned that truth into law—and Alley Cat Allies is proud to have helped make it happen.

Starting September 1, 2021, Texas shelters and rescues will be required to scan an animal in their custody for a microchip “as soon as practicable.” We can’t overstate how critical this is to swift and successful reunions, and how many lives it could save.

You will find Alley Cat Allies behind many microchipping milestones. In fact, our advocacy for this vital technology goes back decades. We were one of the first organizations to recognize the lifesaving potential of microchips for both companion and community cats.

Our **Microchips Save Lives** campaign spreads the word around the world: Every cat should be microchipped, with information registered and up to date.

Our **Plan to Scan**® campaign educates veterinary professionals, animal shelters, and animal control officers to scan for a microchip the moment a cat enters their care. That same protocol is now law in Texas!

Thank you to all who supported this important legislation. It will serve as a model, and we are just getting started!

*I personally sent a letter to legislators in support of the bill. -B.R.*

“ I so appreciate Alley Cat Allies being the number one supporter on this bill. Your campaign for scanning for microchips is phenomenal! The Dallas convention (Every Kitty Every City™ TEXAS) was the best material I’ve ever seen on microchip support. ”

CATHY GLEASON



Scanning a cat for a microchip is critical to making reunions possible.

## Recipe for Reunion



Insert Microchip +



Register Online +



Plan to Scan®



Learn more: [alleycat.org/MicrochipsSaveLives](http://alleycat.org/MicrochipsSaveLives)

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