

# ALLEY CAT ACTION<sup>®</sup>

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

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

## MAKING CRITICAL CHANGE FOR CATS IN WAKE OF HURRICANE IDA

When Alley Cat Allies President and Founder Becky Robinson touched down on the Gulf Coast just 48 hours after Hurricane Ida with a plane full of lifesaving supplies for cats and other animals, she was met with harrowing accounts of the storm's destruction.

Entire Louisiana neighborhoods were flooded, critical infrastructure was damaged—and cats were left behind, some trapped in their homes, and others without their caregivers.

“The situation was absolutely dire,” says Becky. “Many cats were stranded in houses, starving, and in need of urgent medical attention. We had to act fast to save their lives.”

*(continued on page 3)*



Hours after Hurricane Ida, Alley Cat Allies President and Founder Becky Robinson was on the ground to aid grassroots organizations protecting local cats, like this beautiful Snowshoe.

## KEEPING UP THE FIGHT TO SAVE EAST BAY'S CATS



*Community cats are critical to the ecosystems in which they live. Removing them, as East Bay Parks is doing, does irreparable harm.*

On July 21, Alley Cat Allies filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, to stop the East Bay Regional Park District's (East Bay Parks) unlawful new policy that allows for the killing of cats, including with guns.

That is not the only threat the policy presents. East Bay Parks is also actively

trapping cats found on parklands, impounding them in shelters, and relocating them far from their familiar setting and feline community.

“For years, East Bay Parks has been shooting cats, claiming that killing them is necessary to protect endangered species. They are disastrously mistaken,” says Becky Robinson. “These actions violate evidence-based science, the will of the people... and the law.”

Ever since East Bay Parks' barbarism was exposed last year, Alley Cat Allies has been fighting for the cats who are its victims. Over three weeks in October and November 2020, a Parks employee hunted and shot

*(continued on page 4)*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our work to defend cats this summer has taken us from the courtroom to the front lines after a hurricane.

Within a few short days of Hurricane Ida devastating the Gulf Coast, I flew to both Mississippi and Louisiana with much needed deliveries of emergency relief supplies for animals, along with frontline lifesaving expertise for local responders.

Both supplies and my expertise—born across decades of disaster relief experience—are in near constant demand these days as the frequency of natural disasters skyrockets.

Thanks to incredible donors and supporters like you, Alley Cat Allies was able to save the lives of hundreds of cats living along the Gulf Coast this past month. The difference this made to the cats and the grassroots organizations helping them cannot be overstated.

As a backdrop to all this, there is a bigger issue that we as a people can't afford to ignore.

Looming over our future is the unsettling fact that disasters, like Ida and the California wildfires that razed millions of acres this year, will continue to occur not only in greater numbers but on a large scale. An increasing number of cats and other animals will need our help, and that begins with a strong focus on preparation.

Now more than ever, Alley Cat Allies' work to defend cats and kittens is critical. In this newsletter, you'll learn how we save lives during disasters, about our campaign to defend cats in the East Bay area of California, including filing a groundbreaking lawsuit, and more ways we are transforming communities to protect cats with your support.

We also have breaking news to share: we've been undercover in West Virginia to expose animal cruelty. See the insert in this newsletter to learn more.

Alley Cat Allies is the cats' champion and protector. We do not compromise or hold back when cats are in danger. We will never be silent, complacent, or slow to act when the lives of cats are at stake. I am endlessly grateful that you are with us as we change the world.



For the cats,

Becky Robinson  
President and Founder

## Connect with me online:

/ACAPresident /FeralBecky

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## OUR MISSION:

To transform and develop communities to protect and improve the lives of cats.

# MAKING CRITICAL CHANGE FOR CATS IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE IDA

(continued from page 1)

Upon returning four days later with a second plane of critical supplies, Becky witnessed the devastation up close. Many cats remained in dangerous conditions, with the clock ticking to save their lives.



*Becky Robinson unloads a plane full of emergency relief supplies for the animals impacted by Hurricane Ida. With cats in dangerous situations, there was no time to lose.*

Alley Cat Allies' supplies made the difference. We brought generators (more valuable than gold at the time), veterinary triage kits, cat and dog food, and other important items to facilitate rescue and urgent care.

All this was possible thanks to the generous and unwavering support of our donors. Because of you, thousands of cats are alive today who very likely would not be otherwise. We'll never forget that.

But these animals should never have been in such a grim position. The reality is the aftermath of Hurricane Ida was dishearteningly similar to what Becky experienced on the ground after Hurricane Katrina—despite 16 years to make progress. The commonality: a shocking and deadly lack of preparedness.

Post-Katrina, federal and state laws were passed, including the U.S. Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act in 2006, to ensure animals are properly included in disaster response. Louisiana Revised Statute 29:729—also in effect since 2006—

requires that parishes establish evacuation shelters and protocols for animals and require animal shelters to develop disaster plans.

Yet, just as during Katrina, shelters in affected parishes still scrambled in the face of Hurricane Ida, and cats were still left behind during evacuations.

Remedying this situation is a matter of life and death. Alley Cat Allies is committed to increasing disaster preparedness education and outreach nationally, starting in Louisiana. As part of this work, we will press for greater accountability under laws meant to protect people and animals during disasters.

Learn more about our Hurricane Ida response at [alleycat.org/HurricaneIda](http://alleycat.org/HurricaneIda).

## STAY PREPARED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY



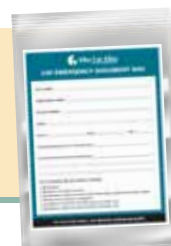
Alley Cat Allies is here to help you plan ahead to protect your family, including the four-legged members, in case you have to evacuate.

**Create an emergency evacuation plan for your animals.**  
[alleycat.org/DisasterTips](http://alleycat.org/DisasterTips)

**Prepare your community cats for an emergency.**  
[alleycat.org/DisasterProof](http://alleycat.org/DisasterProof)

**Learn how to include cats in your family's evacuation plan.**  
[alleycat.org/EvacPlan](http://alleycat.org/EvacPlan)

**Sign up to get our free Cat Emergency Guide.**  
[alleycat.org/EmergencyGuide](http://alleycat.org/EmergencyGuide)



Our Emergency Document Bag will help you prepare your family, including your cats, for an emergency. Get yours at [alleycat.org/shop](http://alleycat.org/shop).



Becky Robinson visits Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland, California, to pay her respects to the cats hunted and killed by East Bay Parks.

to death 13 cats who lived near Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland.

The public, and even board members, were stunned and outraged. East Bay Parks hides behind their mistaken interpretation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to defend its conduct and justify its new policy. But removing cats is NOT mandated by the ESA. And there is no hiding from another key law: the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Anne Lynch, a partner at Van Ness Feldman LLP who is representing Alley Cat Allies in our lawsuit, explains: "The removal of free-roaming cats will cause direct as well as reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes to the environment. As such, East Bay Parks' policy must be evaluated under California law, specifically CEQA. East Bay Parks has failed to comply with those requirements."

Cats have been part of the California environment for hundreds of years. To remove them permanently is unrealistic and the attempt is dangerous to the complex web of local life. Disastrous harm has historically come to areas where cats were removed.

Without proper analysis of a given ecosystem and the role cats play in it, conservationists make very poor decisions based on bias. Their false perceptions— unsupported by site-specific scientific evidence— result in the suffering and death of cats AND of the very species they meant to save.

If there is one thing conservationists should know, it is that ecosystems are very complex. Less killing and more respect for life is essential.

Follow updates on this critical campaign, the outcome of which could impact how our entire nation treats cats, at [alleycat.org/EastBay](http://alleycat.org/EastBay).

## THE PEOPLE OPPOSE KILLING CATS

A recent survey of East Bay residents revealed that:



**78%**

think hunting and shooting community cats is unacceptable



**Over 80%**

are concerned that shooting cats could harm people or other animals

## 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](http://alleycat.org/GetHelp)



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



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



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

# BECKY ROBINSON DRIVES CHANGE AROUND THE WORLD



Our president and founder has been in action all over the map this year to fight not only for humane, effective policies and programs for cats, but for cats' very right to live.

From taking on the vile shooting of cats in Port of Newcastle, Australia, and California's East Bay, to working to end a long history of harmful animal policies in West Virginia, to touching down on the

*In Australia, Becky is fighting for cats like Rosie, who was shot in the eye during a botched cat cull ordered by the Port Authority of Port of Newcastle in New South Wales.*

post-hurricane Gulf Coast, Becky brings decades of expertise worldwide to change minds and save lives.

After Hurricane Ida, Becky met with key organizations and delivered planes full of relief supplies for animals ([read more on page 1](#)). News outlets, including Washington, D.C.'s WTOP-AM and WJLA-TV,

Mississippi's WJTV and WDAM television stations, and Louisiana's Hammond Daily Star covered her lifesaving work.

Since at least 12 cats were massacred by a contract killer hired by the Port Authority of Port of New Castle, Australia, Becky has been working with Australia's Animal Justice Party to stop the killing and change the underlying beliefs behind the slaughter. ([Learn more at \[alleycat.org/Australia\]\(http://alleycat.org/Australia\).](#))

Becky is the leading voice against East Bay Parks' unlawful new policy to remove cats from parklands, including by lethal means ([learn more on page 1](#)). This summer, Alley Cat Allies filed a lawsuit to vacate, or set aside, the policy. News outlets all over the nation and throughout California, such as the East Bay Times, KQED-FM, and KGO-TV, have covered this important story.

...and this is just scratching the surface.

Keep up with Becky and Alley Cat Allies' international work to protect cats at [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org).

At this time when caregivers, animal shelters, animal organizations, and veterinarians face limited surgical spay appointments, Alley Cat Allies recommends Megestrol Acetate (MA) as a short-term, non-surgical contraceptive for female cats. To learn more, visit [alleycat.org/Contraception](http://alleycat.org/Contraception).



## Halt Estrus

Short-term prevention of estrus ("heat") in female cats for up to 7 months until spay can be performed.



## Rx Required

A veterinarian prescription is required and liquid MA must be compounded.

## Treatment

The liquid compound can be given orally or mixed into food. Recommended for community cats if given carefully so each cat gets the proper dosage.



## Safe & Effective\*

Recommended for contraception by veterinarians when used at the proper low dosage. Already used safely in cats to treat other medical conditions with minimal side effects.



## Maintenance Dosage



One 2.5 mg dose to an unspayed cat once a week for up to 30 weeks.

## Heat Cycle Dosage



If a cat is in heat, 5 mg per day for three days, then maintenance dosage.



This year on Global Cat Day®, advocates from around the world united on behalf of cats everywhere!

Together, we spread awareness about the threats facing cats, promoted lifesaving laws and policies, and spoke out for cats as individuals deserving of protection and respect.

If you took part in any way, big or small, thank you!

[globalcatday.org](http://globalcatday.org)

## WORDS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

Alley Cat Allies has incredible donors and friends. Here is just some of what they have to say about our work to protect and improve cats' lives.

*"I donate frequently to Alley Cat Allies. It is a purposeful and compassionate charity for cats by providing education to the public on community cat welfare, and much more."* –Diana B.

*"I love what they do! I love reading about all of the areas they go to in order to help, too. I love giving to them!"* –Terri C.

*"Alley Cat Allies is such a wonderful organization. They are always partnering with small rescues, like ours, to save paws. They are one of the most caring orgs we have ever had the pleasure of working with."* –Friends United in Rescue, Chico, California

Learn how you can donate to support our lifesaving work at [alleycat.org/Donate](http://alleycat.org/Donate). To invest in a brighter future for cats with a planned gift, visit [alleycat.org/PlannedGiving](http://alleycat.org/PlannedGiving) (CFC #10964) (EIN #52-1742079) or for more information, call **866-309-6207**.

## YOU SAVED THEIR LIVES

With help from our supporters like you, Alley Cat Allies is saving the lives of cats and kittens every day and through every challenge.

Here are some of their stories:

### BEAR



Bear, and her siblings Lion and Tiger, were found on New Jersey campgrounds by a good Samaritan, who immediately contacted Alley Cat Allies. We treated the trio for eye infections and found them the perfect foster home. Now they're lively, healthy, and awaiting families of their own!

### TIMMY



Because of the top-notch veterinary team at the Becky Robinson Alley Cat Allies Veterinary Hospital in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Timmy is able to walk again! Missing a foot when he arrived, Timmy received the surgery he needed to regain his balance.

### CLOUDY



Cloudy is a friend to all, including a group of Atlantic City construction workers with whom he bonded. But when Cloudy fell ill one day, his caregivers couldn't provide the treatment he needed. So, Alley Cat Allies took on Cloudy's care and found him a loving foster—now forever—home.