

SPECIAL REPORT

ALLEYCAT.ORG



In late 2020, Alley Cat Allies received a report of neglect of animals inside the Berkeley County Animal Control (BCAC) shelter in West Virginia. We investigated and found another disturbing case. Then another. Then yet another.

SAVING the Animals of BERKELEY COUNTY, WV, from Animal Control CRUELTY



We conducted an in-depth investigation... and uncovered a shocking pattern of extreme animal cruelty in the very institution meant to *protect* animals.

BCAC withheld necessary veterinary treatment from animals in its care, even those whose emergent medical conditions and sufferings were obvious to any reasonable lay person, let alone an animal shelter professional. As a result, animals suffered and even perished.

Taking Lifesaving Action

Alley Cat Allies immediately removed animals to provide them with necessary medical treatment. Then, to stop the cruelty, we submitted a petition for a writ of mandamus in the highest court in the state. Our filing asks the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia to compel BCAC to comply with the law by providing immediate, necessary veterinary care for animals in its shelter.

(See Saving the Animals of Berkeley County, WV, from Animal Control Cruelty on back)

The Animals Who SUFFERED from *Animal Control Cruelty* in West Virginia

Behind Alley Cat Allies' campaign and lawsuit to end cruelty in the Berkeley County Animal Control (BCAC) shelter in West Virginia are heartbreaking stories of the animals who were its victims.

Alley Cat Allies wants to share with you the names and stories of just some of these animals, who we rescued to treat urgent medical conditions that had gone untreated in the shelter. Many more victims' stories will never be known, but each and every one of them matters. We are fighting for them.

(See The Animals Who Suffered from Animal Control Cruelty in West Virginia on back)



JACOB



SHERE KHAN

SAVING the Animals of BERKELEY COUNTY, WV, from Animal Control CRUELTY

(continued from front)

the suffering of any animal.” These laws apply just as much to BCAC as to any member of the general public, especially since it is the very public office created to uphold them.

As well as providing necessary veterinary care for animals currently in the facility, Alley Cat Allies is calling on Berkeley County to suspend animal intake at the shelter and investigate, charge, and prosecute those involved in the horrific neglect. Then, we seek the creation of a genuine animal control agency that

Animal cruelty laws of West Virginia make it a crime for anyone to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly withhold medical treatment necessary to “sustain normal health and fitness or to end

adheres to laws and adopts humane policies and standards that set requirements for how animals are cared for.

The animal shelter system and our society urgently need such a historic overhaul. Alley Cat Allies is making it happen, and we are endlessly grateful to have you with us.

Join our fight against animal control cruelty

Watch and share our video, *Special Investigation: Saving the Animals of Berkeley County, WV, from Animal Control Cruelty* at [Youtube.com/AlleyCatAllies](https://www.youtube.com/AlleyCatAllies).

Or scan the QR code at right.

[Learn more at alleycat.org/BerkeleyCountyWV](https://www.alleycat.org/BerkeleyCountyWV).



The Animals Who **SUFFERED** from **Animal Control Cruelty** in West Virginia (continued from front)

Newt, a precious long-haired black cat, suffered in the BCAC shelter with a grossly enlarged and discolored tongue that prevented him from closing his mouth, and from eating and drinking. He spent 10 days in pain without medical treatment. Alley Cat Allies rushed Newt to an emergency hospital the minute we obtained him from the shelter. Tragically, the veterinarian determined the only option for Newt was humane euthanasia. He was 7 years old.

Alley Cat Allies rescued **Shere Khan, Jacob**, and many other cats from BCAC, rushing them to a veterinarian to treat medical conditions that went untreated at the shelter. Shere Khan has recovered and today the handsome 6-year-old tabby is starting his new journey in an adoptive home. Jacob is being fostered and awaiting an adoptive home of his own!

Kimberly, a sweet 4-year-old miniature pinscher, endured a bulging and enlarged eye, with glaucoma, ocular inflammation, corneal ulcer, and an open wound underneath, at BCAC. She went for 8 days without



KIMBERLY

necessary medical treatment. Alley Cat Allies rescued Kimberly and brought her to a veterinarian for immediate care, but her condition left her permanently blind. Today, she is in an experienced, loving foster home.

ALLEY CAT ALLIES *In the News*

From speaking out against cruelty to sharing expert guidance on cats, Becky Robinson and Alley Cat Allies are a trusted source for the news media. **The Washington Post, Philadelphia Inquirer** and **San Diego Union Tribune** shared Becky's guidance on working with veterinarians to find hard-to-get food and medications for cats during supply chain disruptions. Becky was interviewed and quoted by various news outlets about the Alley Cat Allies animal

cruelty investigation in Berkeley County Animal Control in West Virginia, including **Washington, D.C.'s WDVM-TV, West Virginia Public Radio, the Panhandle News Network, Hagerstown Herald-Mail**, and **Martinsburg Journal**.

Follow Becky Robinson on...

Facebook: [facebook.com/ACAPresident](https://www.facebook.com/ACAPresident)

Twitter: twitter.com/FeralBecky