

With notes
from the Alley
Cat Allies team!



Alley Cat Allies[®]
The cats' leading advocate

ALLEY CAT ACTION[®]

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | alleycat.org | Spring 2023

For Alley Cat Allies' Over 800,000 Supporters
and Activists Across the Nation
and Around the World

You Changed Their Lives!

Luttie-Bell, one of the community cats we helped with spay, vaccination, and microchip at our Feline Frenzy[®] spay and neuter event in Wise, VA.

All of Alley Cat Allies' lifesaving programs are built around one core truth: People care deeply about cats. But often, advocates lack the resources to turn their compassion into action—or even face roadblocks from their own community officials and policies. Alley Cat Allies' *Feline Frenzy*[®] is all about overcoming those obstacles!

Feline Frenzy brings together local animal protection groups, veterinarians, advocates, caregivers, policymakers, and residents to create lasting change for cats. A big part of kicking off that change are high-quality spay and neuter and wellness events—**with all costs covered by Alley Cat Allies.**

YOUR generosity powers this critical work to save cats and improve communities.

Recently, we held two such events in Wise County, Virginia, and St. Mary's County, Maryland. In just a few days, more than 200 cats and kittens were spayed and neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, eartipped for identification, and returned to their outdoor homes! We also gave out thousands of pounds of cat food to caregivers in the most need.

Here are just some of the lives we changed together:

CHARLIE



Charlie, who his caregiver, Sarah-Rose, calls “a big ol’ boy” was neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and eartipped at our Feline Frenzy event in St. Mary's County. We were told he was a sweetheart, and he proved it: When he returned to his outdoor home after

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We have more Feline Frenzy planned. Stay tuned!

Follow us on social media!



/AlleyCatAllies

You Changed Their Lives!

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surgery, the first thing he did was check on his buddy, who was still in his trap.

“What you guys at Alley Cat Allies are doing is amazing, and I’m very thankful,” said Sarah-Rose.



Charlie checking on his buddy, who was still in his trap.

Is this not the kindest face? Our Feline Frenzy event in St. Mary’s County not only neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated sweet Jack, but ensured he received extra care for his eye, which was mildly injured by a splinter. He’s all healed up now and back home with his family!



Spaying and neutering kittens at an early age is important—they can become pregnant as young as 4 months old!



Tiny tabby Dora spent most of the time at our Feline Frenzy event in St. Mary’s County peeking out at everything around her. For a little kitten, she has a huge amount of curiosity! She and her siblings were spayed and neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped together.

Community Change Is What It’s All About



This is why we do what we do. This is our impact!

Alley Cat Allies’ Feline Frenzy unites communities to create long-needed resources for cats and kittens—which means changing some minds along the way! Inspired by the success of our spay and neuter event together, local organizations and animal control in St. Mary’s County, Maryland, are coming together to form a new community cat and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) coalition!

Our Feline Frenzy brought even skeptical animal control officers out into the field to help cats—and now they’re looking to expand TNR services with dedicated cat advocates. As they say, seeing is believing!



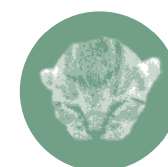
Little calico mix Reese’s and her big tabby brother, Snickers, were among the 100+ cats we helped at our Feline Frenzy event in Wise County, Virginia. Their caregiver, Anna K., couldn’t be more thankful on behalf of the duo—whom she admits she’s partial to.

“They’re just special. I even give them a special feeding before the other cats come out, and they scratch at the door for it every morning,” Anna confided to us.

A KITTEN’S ROAD to Cathood

Step by wobbly step, tiny neonatal kittens become sleek, spry adult cats. They go through a lot of changes along the way (though sleeping most of the day never changes!). Just in time for spring—and Kitten Season—here are kittens’ biggest milestones.

The most kittens are born during the warmest months, AKA Kitten Season.



Newborn

Kittens’ eyes are closed, ears are folded, and they can’t stand, keep themselves warm, eliminate waste, or eat on their own. They rely on mom for everything!



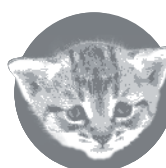
2 Weeks

Kittens’ eyes are fully open (they may start opening at 1 week!) and they’re taking their first wobbly steps. Kittens this age start interacting more with each other!



Handsome Arepa was picture perfect waiting for his neuter surgery at our Feline Frenzy event in Wise County. We helped the community bring him all the way through the process from humane trapping to spay and neuter, vaccination, microchip, and eartip, then return to his outdoor home!

Learn more about Alley Cat Allies’ Feline Frenzy.



4 Weeks

Kittens are sturdy on their feet and playing with each other, toys, and people. They’ve been introduced to wet food and a litter box at around 3 weeks old.



6 Weeks

Kittens are using the litter box and eating cat food, but still visiting mom for snacks and comfort. Socialization and play are critical at this age!

NEWBORN



2 WEEKS



4 WEEKS



6 WEEKS



8 WEEKS



Tales from our Cat Help Desk

When cats need help, Alley Cat Allies answers the call.

Argus Proves One Eye Is Just Fine

Our supporters like you helped save Argus’ life! When we got a call about a kitten with a badly wounded eye in the California Bay Area, we jumped into action with our friends at FieldHaven Feline Center (we worked with them to save cats during California’s 2018 Camp Fire).

Argus was named after the all-seeing watchman of Greek mythology!



ARGUS

Our Cat Help Desk answers hundreds of calls every year. YOU make this resource possible!

Argus was transported to a veterinary clinic and received emergency surgery, with Alley Cat Allies covering all the costs. Removing the eye was the best choice for this little guy, but he’s just as spirited and capable with one—and he’s made a full recovery!

Serving Chili This Spring

Just as April showers bring May flowers, spring brings a boom in kitten births. So it came as no surprise when our Cat Help Desk fielded a call about a new cat mother—Chili—with a litter of 4 kittens outdoors in California. The caller was concerned about the little family’s well-being, and we let her know not to worry! A mother cat is kittens’ best caretaker and can keep her babies safe in her outdoor home.

We advised the caller to set up an outdoor shelter—with straw—to give mom and kittens a comfortable home base. And once the kittens are old enough, we’ll help ensure they are spayed and neutered!



Cornbread, one of Chili’s four kittens.



8 Weeks

Kittens are old enough to be spayed or neutered—as long as they’re 2 or more pounds! They’re more solid on their feet, adventurous, and learning constantly.



Get more kitten care information at alleycat.org/Kittens.

VICTORY! Three Law and Policy Wins for Cats

WEST VIRGINIA

Since our in-depth investigation into Berkeley County Animal Control revealed what we consider shocking animal cruelty, Alley Cat Allies has gone to court to protect the county's cats. In 2021, we filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for public records from the county sheriff's department, including those related to treatment of animals. The department never provided most of that information—which is a violation of FOIA.

We took action, and now a Berkeley County Circuit Court judge has ordered the sheriff's department to finally produce the documents! Soon, Alley Cat Allies and citizens will know what has truly been happening to animals in the shelter—and start down the road to real change. [Learn more at alleycat.org/BerkeleyCountyWV](https://alleycat.org/BerkeleyCountyWV)



APPLE

MAINE

Cats were nearly included in Maine's animal trespass law, meaning animal control officers would be obligated to chase and trap any cat accused of "trespassing" on a property. In other words, many, many more community cats would have been killed in shelters. Alley Cat Allies testified against the bill alongside many other advocates, and the bill failed to pass!



MITTS



BANE, rescued from Berkeley County Animal Control.

UTAH

Alley Cat Allies testified and rallied advocates in Utah to oppose an absurd bill that would restrict community cat caregivers to only feeding cats during daylight hours. Thanks to our voices together, the Utah House of Representatives defeated the bill, which would have done irreparable harm to TNR in the state.

ADOPTION Success!

James Bond James Bond is a cat we rescued through our work in Berkeley County, WV!

When James Bond first arrived at his new home, he was so nervous he wouldn't use the litter box. We advised his new family to buy him his own litter box and fill it with Cat Attract® litter. It worked like a charm—now we give every adopter a bag of Cat Attract!



JAMES BOND

"James Bond is doing really well. He's definitely found his forever home," his new family said.

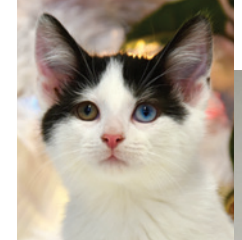
Miley

We knew her as Mittens, but now she's starting her new life in her forever home with a new name: Miley! And it's no surprise to us that she quickly wiggled her way into her family's hearts.

Her adopters say: "Miley has made herself right at home. She's a very sweet kitty and certainly does talk a lot!"

Capri and her Kittens

Every cat mom eventually pushes her kittens to "leave the nest." Capri was adopted with her kittens, Maizie, Bean, and Timber, right at that natural milestone—and she was pretty skeptical. Our prescription: Give Capri space, enrichment, and one-on-one time away from her kittens.



TIMBER



BEAN



CAPRI

Problem solved—and Capri's family says she and the kittens all cuddle again!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Nina Bean

Nina Bean and her husband know well the lifesaving power of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)! Ever since they came home one fateful day to a cat sitting on their porch (who they lovingly named Mom Cat), they've been all in on helping local community cats. Mom Cat brought her kittens and soon, Mrs. and Mr. Bean were providing TNR and caring for 30 cats out of their own pocket.



Nina with Tige.

Every day, Alley Cat Allies empowers advocates like the Beans to invest in a bright future for cats and kittens.

Because Nina believes strongly in our mission (and embodies it!) she chose to leave Alley Cat Allies in her will.

"Organizations like Alley Cat Allies that stand up for cats' rights and lives really resonate with me," said Nina. "I wished for my estate to go to missions near and dear to my heart, and that is Alley Cat Allies."

We deeply thank Nina for her compassion and generosity. YOU can also help build a better world for cats with a donation at www.alleycat.org/Donate. Or, consider a planned gift at alleycat.org/PlannedGiving (CFC#10964) (EIN #52-1742079). For more information, call 866-309-6207.

Nina's favorite photo of her current cat, Lacey.



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OUR MISSION:

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

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