

# ALLEY CAT ACTION<sup>®</sup>

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org) | Summer 2023

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

THOR



## **TORNADO** Saving cats after disasters— and standing ready for more to come **WATCH**

As brave and strong as his God of Thunder namesake, beautiful lynx point Siamese cat Thor survived the historic tornadoes that tore through the Little Rock, Arkansas,

area by taking cover beneath the accumulating debris. His fine-tuned feline instincts saved his life but, unfortunately, he couldn't avoid a devastating injury to his lower jaw.

That's where Alley Cat Allies, and our incredible supporters, came in. To help the feline victims of the tornado, we connected with Community Cats Global, just outside of Little Rock.

As rescuers dug through the rubble to pull out an exhausted, injured Thor, Alley Cat Allies finalized a grant that would cover the costs of his extensive care as well as that of many more cats and bottle baby kittens impacted by the disaster.

Alley Cat Allies' disaster grants fund all necessary care, no matter how expensive the procedure. It was no question that we would cover the costs of the specialized surgery Thor needed to repair his jaw, as well as wound treatment and spay and neuter for other cats and the round-the-clock care neonatal kittens need to survive.

Just weeks earlier, we provided the same critical disaster funding to save cats' lives in the aftermath of

tornadoes in Mississippi. And at the end of April, we did it again after tornadoes in Oklahoma. Today, we stand ready to protect cats and kittens through all the disasters yet to come—and we rely on our supporters and donors to make it possible. *(See Tornado Watch on page 2)*

### *Meet Buddy*

*Sarah Richardson of Community Cats Global, a recipient of Alley Cat Allies' disaster relief grant, tells the story of this tornado survivor.*

Everyone in Little Rock loves Buddy! They've known him from years of being a "restaurant cat" in the hard-hit area of Walnut Valley. He was one of the first ones found injured after the storm and the vet estimates he is 15+ years old. He has a permanent head tilt from years of an untreated medical condition, but now he's happy, getting healthier, and thriving.

You won't meet a more chill cat. He's truly such a sweet senior boy who deserves the very best. Thank you to Alley Cat Allies for your grant as we continue to treat our tornado cats and kittens. Everyone's doing better and getting top-notch vet care!



**The Tiny Steps to Recovery,  
One Paw in Front of the Other**

Thor made it through surgery like a champ, but was stuck with a limited diet due to the wires inserted to help him heal. None of it dampened the can-do spirit that made him a well-loved member of his Little Rock community. We're thrilled to say Thor braved his weeks of recovery and had his wires removed early this summer!

But Thor's story was far from the only journey to recovery. Tornadoes at the peak of kitten season meant Alley Cat Allies' disaster relief grantees had their hands full with tiny, vulnerable neonatal kittens. In Arkansas, our funding helped provide round-the-clock care that dozens of kittens needed to survive.

In Mississippi, Alley Cat Allies' grant to Greenville Animal Clinic & Hospital, saved tiny tuxedo Nado and many more impacted kittens. Nado was just 4 weeks old when he was rescued from twisted metal and concrete left by the disaster.



NADO

Our funding ensured he could be examined, treated, and cared for throughout his recovery.



POPPY

Adorable as he is, Nado found his new family in short order!

Weeks later in Oklahoma, our grant to Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue provided that same critical care to kittens Poppy and Lily. The two little

siblings were rescued after tornadoes and had painful eye infections.

Today, Poppy, Lily, and dozens of other kittens have not only come back from the brink of tragedy wrought by the tornadoes, but are on their way to many bright, sunny days ahead.



*Out of the rubble and into the arms of a new family! Thanks to Alley Cat Allies' tornado relief grant in Mississippi, Nado was rescued, cared for, then adopted.*

“

The community has come together to help the animals affected by the tornado. We're so grateful to Alley Cat Allies for helping us with the cost of medical care. We appreciate it so much.”

**Edwin Nordan, D.V.M.**  
Greenville Animal Clinic & Hospital

**But the Work is Far from Over**

Disasters will strike again, and cats will need us. Your generosity empowers Alley Cat Allies to save lives when the worst comes to pass. For that, we cannot thank you enough.

Find more exclusive stories and photos of cats and kittens we saved this year with our disaster grants at [alleycat.org/tornado-relief/](http://alleycat.org/tornado-relief/).

**Get Ready for Global Cat Day®  
October 16!**

Cats Are Community, so let's protect them like community. We'll be sharing more information on Global Cat Day and how you can help cats on this international day of action. Stay tuned!

**#GlobalCatDay**



# Digital **DISASTER** AVERTED

When a ransomware crisis threatened cats' lives,  
*we took action*

In today's world, so many of our most important community resources, including animal shelters, are reliant on technology. So when the City of Dallas was the victim of a widespread outage incident earlier this year, Dallas Animal Services struggled to meet the needs of cats and other animals without access to even basic records.

To prevent cats and kittens from being "euthanized" in the chaos, Alley Cat Allies provided emergency grants. Working with Operation Kindness and Friends of Dallas Animal Services, we facilitated the transfer of cats, dogs, and neonatal kittens out of the shelter while also funding bottle-feeding, veterinary evaluations, treatments, wound care, spay and neuter surgeries, and more.

“

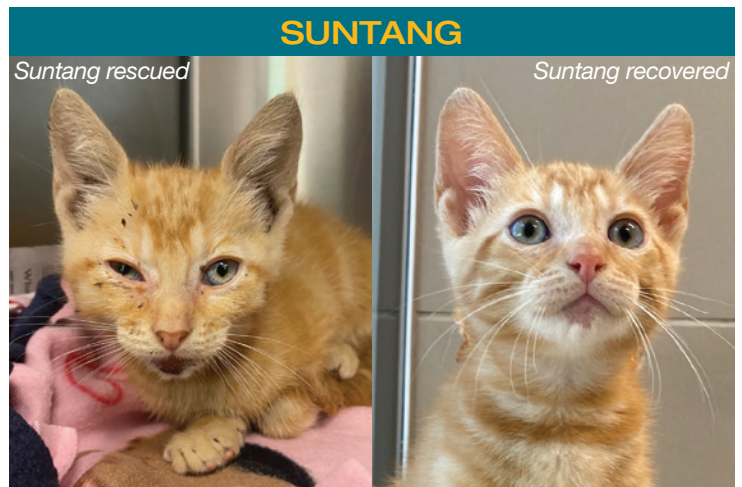
We're so grateful for Alley Cat Allies' help in finding positive outcomes for cats and dogs especially in this time of emergency.”

**Melissa Webber**

*Director of Dallas Animal Services*

Five-week-old Phillipa needed immediate treatment for a wound on her chin. Our grant to Operation Kindness provided for it all.

Suntang, named for his beautiful orange fur and sunny personality, had fleas and conjunctivitis and was underweight before our grant delivered the care he needed. Today, he's doing so much better, and he has been adopted!



Additionally, our grant purchased lifesaving supplies for Dallas Animal Services including incubators and heartbeat simulators for the shelter's kitten nursery.

Alley Cat Allies' mission is to protect cats from all threats—tech-based or otherwise. We need your help to save cats' lives through all the challenges ahead.

**Scan this QR code to see photos of more cats and kittens helped with our grant:**



*Zayna, Morel, and Hehe are just three of the kittens transferred, treated, and saved through Alley Cat Allies' emergency response grant in Dallas.*

# Declawing Almost *Took Their Lives*

*We gave their lives back*

Cats who are declawed can suffer from lifelong pain and even life-threatening complications. We can't restore a declawed paw—the damage cannot be undone. But surgery and the right pain management can alleviate cats' suffering and help them truly live again. Alley Cat Allies is working with The Paw Project to provide that critical care.

## Burrito



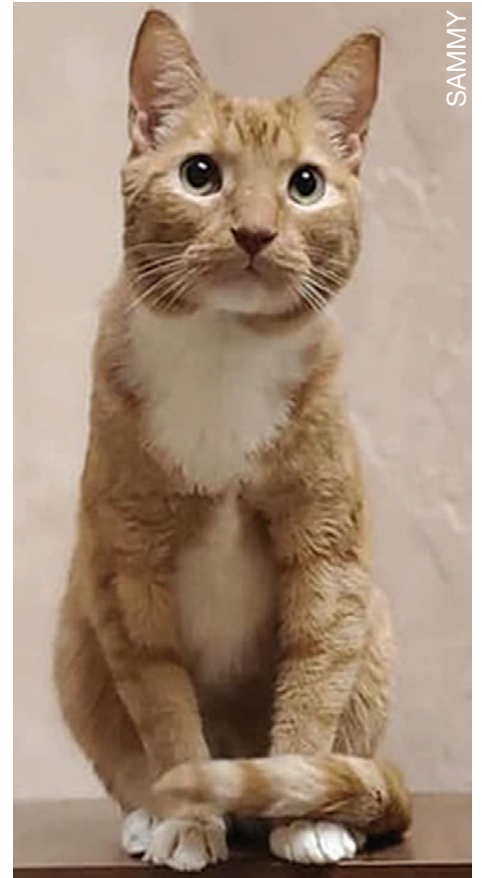
Fourteen-year-old Burrito looks like a million bucks today, but it was not long ago that he was in severe pain from being declawed on all four paws. That pain caused him to act “aggressively,” so he lost his home and was on the way to almost certain death in a shelter. But thanks to Alley Cat Allies’ grant to The Paw Project, Burrito received the right pain management and surgery to salvage his paws as much as possible.

Burrito’s “aggression” stopped almost immediately after being placed on pain medication and surgery to remove a large mass and bone shards left from his declaw. Now he’s a brand-new cat and is living his best life in his new home in Brooklyn, New York. Over a decade after his declawing, he’s finally comfortable.

## Sammy

Sammy has come so far from when he was first found abandoned in an apartment complex, hunched over, sick, alone, terrified of people—and in horrific paw and back pain from being declawed on all four feet.

Thanks to Alley Cat Allies’ declaw salvage grant to The Paw Project—powered by our incredible supporters—Sammy received the surgery he needed to remove multiple painful bone fragments and treat abscesses in all 18 toes. Sammy immediately felt better after surgery and showed his true, sweet colors. No longer facing chronic pain and sickness, he blossomed into a bold and friendly sweetheart of a cat and was quickly adopted into a loving home with a new feline friend!



*We have helped many more cats like Burrito and Sammy with declaw “repair.” But the only way to truly protect cats from declawing is to end the practice, once and for all.*

**Join us in our fight to  
Keep Cats’ Claws on Their Paws  
at [www.alleycat.org/Declaw](http://www.alleycat.org/Declaw).**



## We Want to Hear from YOU!

We want to know which issues affecting cats are most important to you. Please take



our 5-minute survey to share your thoughts.





# FELINE FRENZY® TAKES UPSTATE NEW YORK

A critical resource for cats in one of the most in-need communities

Driving slowly through a quiet Rochester neighborhood to return two cats to their outdoor homes with local organization RockKats, we got a small glimpse into the community. A little boy, backpack slung over his shoulder, played in his driveway with an orange, eartipped cat before heading off to school. Another cat's caregiver requested we return their community cat to the porch, so he'd "know he was back home."

SYLVESTER



Sylvester and Green Eyes, our kitty cargo for the day, immediately darted into a hole in their caregiver's fence when we lifted the door on their humane traps. We'd been given instructions on where to return them, and they certainly knew they were home, too.

U.S. census

data has listed Rochester as one of the highest in overall poverty among the 75 largest metropolitan areas in the country. The neighborhood we were in was low income, yet the dedication so many residents have for their community cats was abundantly clear. But when a caregiver is struggling to even buy cat food, paying for full-cost spay or neuter surgery is out of the question.

To help meet the great need, Alley Cat Allies teamed up with Lollypop Farm, the Humane Society of Greater Rochester to start our *Feline Frenzy*® in the area. *Feline Frenzy*'s goal is to provide services and community change to support Rochester residents and the cats who are their friends, neighbors, and family.



GREEN EYES

Our first *Feline Frenzy* event in April reached almost 100 cats and kittens with Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), vaccination, and any other needed care—all before noon! Sylvester and Green Eyes were among those cats receiving critical care at no cost, all to make a transformative impact for this community.

Each of the 96 cats and kittens helped through our *Feline Frenzy* is because of YOU, our amazing and compassionate supporters. *Feline Frenzy* is powered by your generosity, and we need your support more than ever to strengthen this lifesaving campaign and reach more cats across the nation.



LITTLE RED



**Alley Cat Allies**®

ALLEY CAT ACTION, Volume 33, Issue 4, SUMMER 2023

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

© 2023 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.



## OUR MISSION:

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



GRACIE  
ATLANTIC COUNTY, NJ

# VICTORY! Our latest victories to protect cats in legislation and beyond

## Atlantic County, NJ

Alley Cat Allies is taking our work in the Atlantic County community to the next level. Working with the Humane Society of Atlantic County, our new goal is to provide Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) for 1,000 cats and kittens before summer's end! We'll also be providing no-cost cat food to local caregivers. Our supporters make every weekly clinic possible!

## Cedarville, OH

Dangerous ordinances for cats in Cedarville, Ohio, were tabled thanks to Alley Cat Allies and our supporters, advocates, and local residents. If the ordinance had passed, cats would have been subjected to cruel, ineffective feeding bans—among other absurd measures.

## Missouri

A bill that would have threatened all efforts to ban declawing in Missouri was on the verge of becoming law until Alley Cat Allies stepped in. Thanks to our advocacy and supporters, the bill did not move forward. The measure would have overturned existing declaw bans in St. Louis and St. Louis County AND prevented other cities and counties from passing their own bans.

## PROFILE IN GENEROSITY *Karl Gerds*

### Honoring the incredible donors who make our mission possible

Alley Cat Allies has a compassionate, vibrant community—and many of our supporters have been with us for decades! Karl Gerds has been one of those most dedicated allies since 1999. Karl is also one of our incredible monthly donors, setting the foundation of our work with his unmatched compassion for cats.

Recently Karl and his wife, Beth, named Alley Cat Allies as a recipient in their wills to benefit cats far into the future.

“Alley Cat Allies is one of the first organizations ever to advocate on behalf of community cats,” said Karl. “Your outreach opened up a whole new perspective on the benefits of TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return), and now more and more animal organizations are implementing it and making a difference.”

Karl and Beth, YOU are the reason we can make that difference! Thank you for sharing your legacy and your story with us. Karl and Beth met as undergrads at Boston University and now are semi-retired together with their rescue cat, Wally, who they say is very spoiled! Wally is named affectionately after the Boston Red Sox mascot, Wally the Green Monster.

YOU can also build a better world for cats with a donation at [www.alleycat.org/Donate](http://www.alleycat.org/Donate). Or, consider a planned gift at [alleycat.org/PlannedGiving](http://alleycat.org/PlannedGiving) (CFC#10964) (EIN #52-1742079). For more information, call 866-309-6207.



Karl with Wally

## 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)