

# ALLEY CAT ACTION<sup>®</sup>

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | [alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org) | Winter 2024

For Alley Cat Allies' Over 1 Million Supporters and Activists Across the Nation and Around the World

## **PROTECTING** **PUERTO RICO'S CATS**

**Alley Cat Allies  
is taking a stand  
to save their lives**

***What would you do if you were forced to leave your home in six months?***

For many years, thriving, independent cats have made their home along the winding path between the rocky shore of San Juan Bay and the impressive Castillo San Felipe del Morro, a historic fort in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. If you visit this popular tourist destination, you'll see cats effortlessly navigating the surf-swept rocks or weaving along the weathered stone battlements of the fort.

You'll also see that most of these cats are eartipped—proof of the long-standing and effective Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program through which local advocates ensure each cat is spayed or neutered and vaccinated.

Cared for daily and loved by their community and the millions of visitors to their home, the cats of the Paseo del Morro have lived peacefully—until the announcement of a deadly plan.

*(See Protecting Puerto Rico's Cats on page 2)*



*A community cat  
in Puerto Rico.*

# PROTECTING (continued from page 1) PUERTO RICO'S CATS

As 2023 came to a close, the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) announced its intention to remove these 200 cats within a period of six months—a shocking and pointless scheme Alley Cat Allies is doing everything in our power to halt.

According to the NPS, if an animal organization of their choosing fails to remove the cats within the tight time frame, a task any organization is bound to fail, NPS will contact a “removal agency.” We believe this means the cats will be killed.

Alley Cat Allies is meeting with the Puerto Rican government and working with Save A Gato, the organization caring for the Paseo del Morro cats, to keep the cats in their natural outdoor home and save their lives. We’ve pledged to provide TNR, other needed care, and supplies including food for cats living on the historic site who have not yet been spayed or neutered as well as hundreds of cats in Old San Juan. That effort is already underway and is only the beginning.

Our goal is to send a message to all who would overreach with government power to displace cats from their rightful homes: Cats are members of our communities, and removing them is unacceptable and harmful.



## Cats and TNR Need Our Urgent Protection

The NPS’ disregard for the cats of the Paseo del Morro is a symptom of a larger problem: the epidemic of disinformation about cats and TNR spread by those who believe all cats outdoors should be killed.

As an example of that disinformation, the NPS claims it is removing the cats because they are a “disease vector”—a callous and false label that isn’t rooted in any fact. Community cats are not harming the visitors of Paseo del Morro. In fact, community cats are not a public health threat anywhere, and science and decades of reporting prove they are extremely unlikely to spread rabies, toxoplasmosis, or any other diseases.

Cats around the world are threatened every day by the opposition to TNR, which is shockingly biased against cats and resorts to demonizing them to justify schemes to kill them. With our supporters like you by our side, Alley Cat Allies is defending cats and setting the record straight: Lethal policies have not and will never work. TNR is the only humane, effective, and evidence-based approach for cats and communities.

*We need you in this fight more than ever this year, and every gift expands our impact to save cats’ lives.*

## 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)

# PROTECTING CAYMAN ISLANDS CATS

*A community cat  
in Grand Cayman.*



of many TNR efforts to help cats and their caregivers. In the next weeks, we'll reach 200 cats and kittens—with many more to come!

The next morning, as we opened the doors of the humane traps and watched the cats rejoin their feline families, we could only think: What if the Cayman Islands government spent time, money, and energy on TNR instead of killing?

The islands are home to incredible, hard-working TNR advocates who are improving the cats' lives and the community every day. Between their efforts, government support of TNR, and Alley Cat Allies' expertise, the Cayman Islands could stand as a model for humane, effective approaches on island communities rather than make headlines for cruel and lethal action.

The sprawling, crystal blue waters and white sand beaches of Grand Cayman evoke a sense of paradise and adventure. But when Alley Cat Allies first traveled there in October of 2023, we had something else in mind: the cats and kittens faced with lethal removal by the Cayman Islands government.

Alley Cat Allies has taken a strong stand against a government plan to round up and kill cats on a massive scale, and we are actively supporting local Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and no-cost spay and neuter programs to help community cats and their caregivers. Because the fact is TNR works, and killing does not.

Back in October, we were there as the Cayman Islands Humane Society started on its journey to spay or neuter 100 indoor and community cats and hand out thousands of pounds of cat food through an Alley Cat Allies grant—just to start! We were inspired by the joy and relief of the cats' families and caregivers. They, like so many others on the islands, care deeply for their cats and want the best for them.

So when we provided grants for TNR and other care to organizations Cayman Animal Rescue Enthusiasts (C.A.R.E.) and Feline Friends, our team jumped at the chance to fly back out! In January, we traveled from the chilly U.S. East Coast to the balmy Cayman Islands to follow the first

That is exactly the future we envision—and the one we are working toward with your support. We're glad to say there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and we're making promising headway toward lifesaving change for the islands' cats and kittens.

We can't wait to share that progress with you and, in the meantime, save hundreds of cats' lives through TNR with local organizations. What we accomplish on the Cayman Islands will impact not only how other island communities view and approach community cats, but set an example for communities worldwide to follow. Because the fact is this: Cats, people, and wildlife can all coexist in peace. And when we do, we'll truly find paradise.



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

## **TNR for Thousands of Cats in Atlantic County**

In 2023 alone, Alley Cat Allies provided spay or neuter, vaccination, eartip, microchip, and other critical care to more than 1,000 cats and kittens in Atlantic County, New Jersey. In 2024, we're well on our way to 1,000 more in the first half of the year.



JINX

These achievements are only the latest in our decades of work in the area, through which we've helped thousands upon thousands of cats and their caregivers—and countless more with our lifesaving resources.

## **We Helped 1,800+ Cats and Kittens in Iowa**

Through our Cats Are Family Too™ campaign, Alley Cat Allies collaborated with the Animal Rescue League of Iowa to provide lifesaving no-cost resources to cats throughout the Des Moines area!

In just three cat food distribution events, we handed out cans of cat food to more than 540 households to help more than 1,800 cats and kittens. And through a no-cost vaccine and wellness clinic, we provided dozens of cats and kittens with care that may have otherwise been inaccessible to their families.



*Alley Cat Allies' Kim Hons assists Des Moines-area food bank recipients.*



*Food distribution in the Des Moines area.*



*A recipient of Des Moines-area food distribution.*

## **Standing up for Community Cat Caregivers**

When a Maryland community cat caregiver contacted Alley Cat Allies and told us she was ordered to stop feeding cats (and issued a citation for a \$1,000 fine), we stepped in to provide legal counsel.

Though the caregiver was told that feeding community cats violated an ordinance, the reality was her actions were lawful, and the city ultimately chose to drop the case. Alley Cat Allies acts swiftly when good Samaritans are threatened for helping cats. Our goal is not only to protect one neighborhood's cats, but to set a precedent so caregivers in other communities are not penalized for compassionate action.

## **Low-Cost RESOURCES for CATS at Your Fingertips**

In a time when many face financial insecurity, low- and no-cost services for cats are more critical than ever. Alley Cat Allies compiled a list of animal food banks and low-cost veterinary care by state to help people access resources to protect cats and kittens.

Low-Cost Veterinary Care Directory:  
[alleycat.org/VetDirect](http://alleycat.org/VetDirect)



Animal Food Bank Directory:  
[alleycat.org/FoodBank](http://alleycat.org/FoodBank)



# YOU Saved THEIR LIVES

These cats have many years ahead of them because of YOU

## From Birth to Adoption – Saving a Family

Kittens Butternut, Bisque, Noodle, Chowder and Bouillon were not even a day old when they and their mother, Miso, came under the care of an Alley Cat Allies grant. Their story took on a whole new level of heartwarming when a tiny orphaned kitten was introduced to Miso—who immediately took her in as her own!

The kittens and their adopted sibling, Minestrone, grew up strong and healthy together. Earlier this year, they had their “graduation day” into forever homes! See more photos and stories on page 6.



## PROFILE IN GENEROSITY *Rosemary Manteufel*

Rosemary, 75, tells us she “fell in love with cats” at the age of 10—which speaks to her compassionate spirit as a lifelong cat advocate.

But it was her cat, Smokey, who inspired her to take her advocacy to the next level. Though Rosemary was devastated by the loss of Smokey at a young age, she made protecting cats her mission in life in his memory. Not only is she a major donor to Alley Cat Allies who helped us save thousands of cats’ lives in 2023 alone, she is the dedicated caregiver of 10 community cats in her California neighborhood.

“I would give my last penny to help cats,” says Rosemary, who first became an Alley Cat Allies donor in 2008.

Though we’re barely into 2024, Rosemary’s generosity is already making an inspiring and lifesaving impact for cats and kittens across the country and around the world this year. She shares our commitment to improving the lives of all cats, including community cats, and to establishing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs in every community.



Community cats.

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.



**Alley Cat Allies**

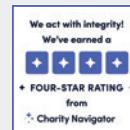
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### OUR MISSION:

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



Chowder on adoption day.



Bouillon with his new family.

## Two Tornado Survivors Thrive

In the wake of devastating Oklahoma tornadoes last year, kitten siblings Lily and Poppy were rescued with severe eye infections, among other serious medical concerns. Alley Cat Allies covered the costs of their treatment through their long months of recovery. Though each had one eye that could not be saved, they've adapted beautifully and grew into the most bright and vivacious young cats.



LILY



POPPY

Poppy and Lily's transformation was an honor and privilege to experience—and both have since been adopted!



CASHEW

## A Little Nutty, a Lot Sweet—Cashew's Story

Mr. Wilson, now named Cashew, was in Alley Cat Allies' care for quite a while as we worked to bring him out of his shell (pun intended!). But it was well worth it to meet the amazing, unique cat he truly was — and he's only blossomed more in his adoptive home!

"From day one, he's been part of our family," say Cashew's adopters. "He's cuddly, he's sweet, he's a little bit spicy, and he's a little bit nutty — hence his name! He means a lot to us, and we love him so much. I feel like we're perfect for him and he's perfect for us."

## Treating a Tiny Tiger

Tygie, a sweet ~6-week-old kitten from Tennessee, needed treatment for an ulcer in her eye and an upper respiratory infection. Through our Cat Help Desk, Alley Cat Allies answered the call to provide Tygie with veterinary care—and she recovered quickly. Her caregiver-turned-adopter says she's a tiny force to be reckoned with and full of personality. Tygie also absolutely adores her human big brother!

TYGIE

