

February 12, 2026

Alaska State Legislature
House Resources Committee
c/o Chairs Geran Tarr and Andy Josephson
via email only to House.Resources@akleg.gov

Re: Proponent testimony to HB 258

Dear Chairs and Honorable Members of the House Resources Committee,

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies and our supporters in Alaska, I submit this written testimony as a proponent of House Bill 258 (“HB 258”), a bill currently under your guidance. Alley Cat Allies strongly urges the Committee to support this bill. If enacted into law, HB 258 will establish a much-needed statewide spay and neuter assistance fund for community cats as well as cats and dogs who belong to low-income households.

Alley Cat Allies was founded in 1990 and is the leader of the global movement to protect and improve the lives of cats and kittens. As the leading advocacy organization for cats, we work with lawmakers, shelters, and the public to advance humane, nonlethal, effective laws and policies that serve the best interests of cats and the communities in which they live.

Alley Cat Allies supports low-cost and free spay and neuter programs as essential resources in every community. If passed, HB 258 will significantly reduce one of the greatest barriers to improving the rate of spay and neuter in cats and dogs in Alaska: cost.

There is great unmet need for accessible spay and neuter services, especially among low-income cat owners who care deeply for their cats but struggle to afford veterinary care. A spay and neuter assistance fund like the one HB 258 would establish will effectively increase the sterilization of cats in these households. Additionally, it would greatly benefit the caregivers of community cats, also known as stray or feral cats, as part of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), whereby unowned cats who live outdoors are trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, eartipped, and returned to their outdoor homes to live and thrive.

Spaying and neutering are of great benefit to both cats and the people who care for them. Sterilization stops the cycle of breeding, eliminates behaviors like roaming, spraying, and yowling associated with mating, and improves cats' health by preventing the stresses of mating and pregnancy as well as certain reproductive diseases.

Without a low-cost or free spay and neuter resource, fewer cats are spayed and neutered, and therefore more are relinquished and impounded in Alaskan animal shelters. Tragically, every year, thousands of healthy cats and dogs are killed in Alaskan governmental shelters, and at great cost to taxpayers. HB 258 will ensure that fewer animals enter Alaskan shelters and fewer animals are killed.

The State of Alaska has the opportunity to stand at the forefront of our nation's humane movement and set a wide-reaching example to ensure cats and dogs have access to essential care. The statewide spay neuter fund proposed by HB 258 addresses the specific need for spay neuter among low-income owners and supports programs providing important, accessible spay and neuter services to community cats.

I encourage you and the members of the Committee to **support HB 258**.

Sincerely,
Outreach Team
Alley Cat Allies
outreach@alleycat.org