

Dear Mayor Jones and members of the San Antonio City Council,

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies and our supporters in San Antonio, I am writing to express our strong support of a thorough investigation and prosecution of those responsible for an act of animal cruelty involving cats who were sealed into two plastic bins with duct tape and left at the side of the road to die. Several of the cats tragically perished in a bin, while others were able to be rushed to veterinary care and saved.

To advance this investigation, Alley Cat Allies seeks to work with San Antonio law enforcement to offer a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the identification and prosecution of the responsible party or parties. We are also prepared to fund necropsies to determine the cause of death of the cats. Alley Cat Allies has successfully offered rewards in San Antonio in past cases of cruelty, with one recently resulting in an arrest. However, though we have reached out to city law enforcement and animal services, we have not yet been able to facilitate a similar reward and further support in the case described above.

Alley Cat Allies is the leading advocacy organization with a mission to protect and improve the lives of all cats and kittens. Since our founding in 1990, we have worked in communities large and small to develop humane, evidence-based policies for cats and take strong action, including in court, against incidents of cruelty to cats. We would like the opportunity to do the same in the case of the cats sealed into bins and achieve the justice they deserve.

Far too often, our judicial system does not adequately recognize the implications of cruelty to animals and, as a result, does not work to ensure the abusers receive a punishment that reflects the severity of the crime. To underestimate the depravity of animal cruelty and the harm it causes is to fail to recognize cats as sentient beings with inherent value who suffer and feel pain and deserve neither. It is also a grave failure to grasp the role of cruelty to cats in the greater landscape of violence in our society.

As you may know, the link between animal cruelty and child abuse, domestic violence, and adverse mental health and community health outcomes is well established, and research has found that violence against animals is predictive of, and often co-occurring with, violence against humans. To protect us all, animals, and people, it is critical to enforce our animal cruelty laws.

Alley Cat Allies offers continued support and assistance in the aforementioned case, including a reward for information and prosecution support once a suspect is charged. We are determined to ensure this case concludes in a manner that brings justice to the victims and sets a standard for future investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty. Please contact me at Cpedrolie@alleycat.org or 732-939-7948 to discuss how we can help.

Sincerely,

Charlene Pedrolie
President and Chief Operating Officer
Alley Cat Allies