

ALLEY CAT ACTION[®]

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | alleycat.org | Summer 2026

For Alley Cat Allies' More Than 1.7 Million Supporters and Activists Across the Nation and Around the World



SHADOW
Before

A Look Into Our **Fight** Against **Cruelty** to Cats

*Together, we can change the landscape
of how animal cruelty is investigated and
prosecuted—and, in so doing,
prevent future acts of cruelty.*

SHADOW
Adopted



In just the past year, Alley Cat Allies' expert team has **taken anti-cruelty action on behalf of hundreds of cats and kittens**. Some of those cats have healed after emergency care and are enjoying the happiness and safety they always deserved. For those who did not get that chance, we fight for justice in their memory—and we win.

We Put Ryan Berlanga in Handcuffs

In November of 2025, a surveillance camera of a San Antonio, Texas, apartment complex recorded a man chasing and then committing a horrific act of cruelty against a kitten. The kitten did not survive the attack.

Leveraging the power of the people, Alley Cat Allies worked with the San Antonio Police Department and issued a \$10,000 reward for any information leading to an arrest and conviction. Our supporters and advocates signal-boosted our call and images of the perpetrator not just across Texas, but nationwide.



Coryn Julien, Alley Cat Allies' Program Communications Officer, walking into court in Washington, D.C.

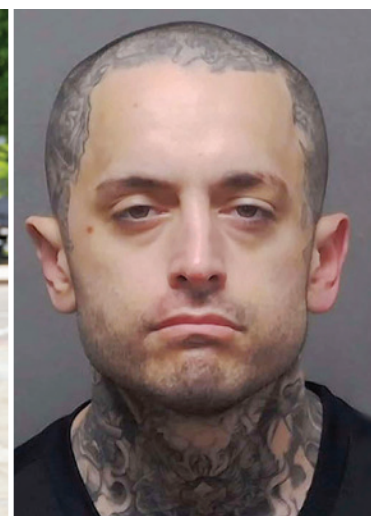


Photo courtesy of Bexar County Sheriff's Office.

Within a week of announcing our reward, a key tip was called in, and Ryan Berlanga was in handcuffs.

(See A Look Into Our Fight Against Cruelty to Cats on page 2)

A Look Into Our **Fight** Against **Cruelty** to Cats

(continued from page 1)

Then, we reached out to the prosecutor in the case and called for the maximum sentence under Texas law. We were right there in the courtroom in May 2026 when he pleaded no contest to not just one felony charge of animal cruelty, but two.

Healing and Justice for Shadow

After Alley Cat Allies issued a \$10,000 reward for information on who shot Shadow in the eye with a blowgun dart, police identified and arrested 45-year-old Jacob Cushingham for the crime.

At the same time, we connected with the advocates providing Shadow with emergency veterinary care and helped cover the costs of his treatment. Unfortunately, his eye was too damaged by the dart to be saved.

Shadow fully recovered and was adopted into a home where he can start anew and adored. And, Cushingham was officially convicted of third-degree animal cruelty earlier this year.

Demanding Arrest and Charges of a Mayor and His Wife

In the small town of Lincolnton, Georgia, a cat was senselessly hunted down, shot, and killed in April



We are calling for animal cruelty charges and a maximum sentence

of 2026. According to a police report and body camera footage, the shooter was Lizzy Long, the wife of Lincolnton Mayor Mike McCombs. Even more disturbingly, McCombs actively encouraged the killing of the cat.

Alley Cat Allies is demanding the arrest and filing of criminal charges against Mayor McCombs, Lizzy Long, and the cat's owner. We are also demanding the immediate removal of McCombs from office.

"It is critical to send the message that elected officials are not above the law. They will be held to its standard—even stronger," said Coryn Julien, Alley Cat Allies' Program Communications Officer.

10 Ways **We Take On Cruelty**

With your support, Alley Cat Allies' anti-cruelty program:

1. Supports and trains law enforcement
2. Provides expert support to cruelty prosecutors
3. Funds medical care for cats affected by cruelty
4. Covers necropsies and other forensics
5. Issues rewards to spur arrests and convictions
6. Rallies advocates to demand justice
7. Educates the public and professionals alike on anti-cruelty action
8. Effectively advocates for stronger cruelty laws
9. Tracks and utilizes essential animal cruelty data
10. Improves access to care to address a root cause of neglect

Join us at
alleycat.org/Anti-Cruelty

RIVER
Atlantic City, New Jersey



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:



FIND LOCAL RESOURCES FOR CATS
Alley Cat Allies' Community Resource Tool™ is here to help you find support in your community.
[GetHelp.alleycat.org](https://gethelp.alleycat.org)



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

Alley Cat Allies® Continues to **Protect** the Cats of the Paseo del Morro



Alley Cat Allies is on the ground in San Juan, Puerto Rico, continuing the fight to protect the community cats of the Paseo del Morro. We are also working with Puerto Rican officials and advocates to expand evidence-based Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and strengthen protections for cats throughout the city.

Along with local organization Save A Gato, Alley Cat Allies is caring for the Paseo cats and taking lifesaving action to prevent their lethal removal by the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) following a federal judge's decision. Alley Cat Allies is pursuing all legal steps to challenge the ruling, which includes gross mischaracterization of TNR—TNR was never on trial—and permitted NPS violations of federal law in developing its removal plan.



At the same time, Alley Cat Allies is partnering with Puerto Rico leaders, including Congressman Pablo José Hernández, and funding spay and neuter, TNR, and humane education campaigns to make a lasting impact for San Juan's cats.

“[The NPS] plan is both inhumane and counter-productive, and my constituents know it,” said Congressman Hernández. “I urge NPS to commit to a period of public outreach and stakeholder consultation to reach a solution that puts people and animals first.”

Learn more about our work to protect the Paseo cats at alleycat.org/PuertoRico.





Lieutenant Dan



LIEUTENANT DAN
After Rescue

Seven-year-old Lieutenant Dan survived the historic flooding in Oahu but unfortunately suffered a laceration injury around

his tail. He's a well known and beloved cat in his neighborhood, and the moment one of his caregivers saw him, they rushed him to the local veterinary clinic.

Alley Cat Allies covered all costs of Lieutenant Dan's wound treatment. Better yet: His community was eager and waiting to bring him home.

Alley Cat Allies footed the bill for the little tuxedo cat's treatment. Once Dan was stitched up, pain free, and ready to go, his community was eager and waiting to bring him home.

(See *Rapid Response: On the Ground After Hawai'i Floods* on page 6)

When Oahu was hit by Hawai'i's worst flooding in 20 years, Alley Cat Allies' Rapid Response Team hit the ground running to save cats' lives.

Our team spent days in action at all hours in Oahu's hard-hit North Shore, providing food and water to flood-affected cats and their caregivers.

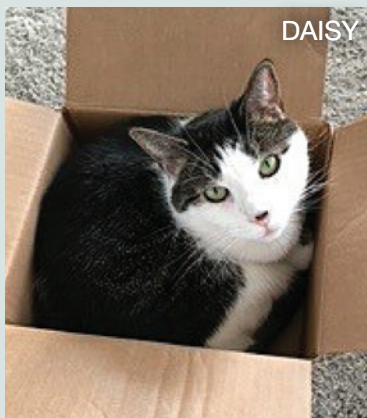
And when cats were rescued from flood zones and needed emergency veterinary care, Alley Cat Allies worked closely with veterinarians to cover all costs of their treatment.



PROFILE IN GENEROSITY: CINDY

Cindy cares deeply about all animals, but cats have held a special place in her heart since childhood. That lifelong commitment also inspired her to donate to Alley Cat Allies for eight years and counting! As a "mom" to three cats, like Daisy pictured right, Cindy doesn't feel she "owns" them at all.

Instead she says it's more like they "own her," and they let her know every day that she is "their human." She loves that her cats make her laugh every single day with their special personalities.



DAISY

As a TNR advocate, Cindy also says that every time she helps a cat, she is filled with joy knowing she isn't only saving a life, but also ensuring that same cat won't be having any more kittens. In her passion for protecting cats, Cindy knows it's all about securing their safety into the future. That's why she joined our Legacy Society by leaving Alley Cat Allies in her estate plans!

"Like anyone who cares deeply about animals, I'd like to think I'm continuing to help after I'm gone. In addition, I believe strongly in the work that your organization does. It goes far beyond just rescuing homeless cats and kittens. I believe Alley Cat Allies really makes a difference."

Learn how you can give at alleycat.org/Donate.

To make the greatest lifesaving impact for cats, consider a bequest or other planned gift at alleycat.org/PlannedGiving or scan the QR code.

CFC#10964)
(EIN #52-1742079)
For more information,
call **866-309-6207**.



Your **IMPACT** in Legislation and Beyond

Lakewood, Ohio, Enacts Strong TNR Ordinance

This past spring, the city passed an ordinance to add protections for TNR, community cats, and their caregivers. **Alley Cat Allies is proud to have provided our expertise and support to help shape this new legislation.**

Lakewood has been successfully operating a pilot TNR program, and the new ordinance will take that important work even further. It includes language that ensures community cat caregivers are not treated as the owners of the cats (they are not; they are good Samaritans)!

Leetsdale, Pennsylvania, Takes Dangerous Measure off the Books

When the Leetsdale mayor herself reached out to Alley Cat Allies to ask how to approach community cats, we leapt at the opportunity to make lifesaving change.

The city's ordinance, as it stood, included cats in the definition of "at large." In other words, community cats



COMMUNITY CAT
Ohio



JAKE
Pennsylvania

were at risk of being impounded by animal control simply for existing outdoors.

We explained why change was needed right away—and in June, Leetsdale amended the ordinance to exempt cats from the at-large law!

Killing Cats with CO₂ Gas Is Off the Table in Hardin, Montana



BLUEBERRY
Montana

When we heard a disturbing recording of a Hardin City Council discussion about creating a CO₂ gas chamber to kill community cats, we refused to stay silent.

Alley Cat Allies reached out to the city, demanding an immediate end to any plans to kill cats. To make it clear where the people stood on this matter, we rallied Montana residents to raise their voices.

Because of our action together, the council removed the cruel and illegal CO₂ scheme from consideration.



Alley Cat Allies®

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Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.

Charity
Navigator

FOUR-STAR

OUR MISSION:

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

You **SAVED** Their **LIVES**

Neo

We think Neo's scar makes him look distinguished! And it's a reminder that this sweet guy is also incredibly brave.

Neo came into our care with a massive wound on his face. As it turned out, that would be the least of our concerns. The little black cat was severely underweight, malnourished, and ill.



But Neo was a fighter, and after surgery and weeks of recovery, he fully healed. We consider that mark on his nose a badge of bravery and honor!

Cricket

When 91 cats and kittens were discovered in a cramped Alabama property, Alley Cat Allies worked with rescuers to cover the costs of veterinary care.

Miraculously, most of the cats and kittens had only minor injuries and illnesses. But Cricket was unique. Look at his front legs and you'll see what we mean!



Cricket's official diagnosis is carpal laxity, a condition affecting the stability of his wrist joints. He's currently undergoing treatment to help strengthen and correct his legs, including splinting.

Not that it slows him down whatsoever. When this one-year-old isn't insisting on being picked up and snuggled, he's giving "zoomies" a new meaning!

Strudel and Kittens



It's always a privilege to help kittens and their mother thrive! Of course, mother cat Strudel will be spayed, so this will be her last litter.

If not for your support, Strudel, Cherry, Berry, and Pebbles might not have made it out of the shelter where they were rescued. Thank you for helping us provide their medical treatment from their earliest days to today.

Because we provide the care they need, they can play hard, sleep soundly, and live life to the fullest.

RAPID RESPONSE: *On the Ground After Hawai'i Floods* (continued from page 4)

Pumpkin

As our team prepared to leave the veterinary clinic after checking on Lieutenant Dan, a resident of Oahu hurried in with another injured cat. When the orange tabby, Pumpkin, carefully poked her head out of her carrier, the painful wound on her ear was immediately apparent.

Pumpkin was discovered in a previously flooded zone and, when a bowl of food was set down, refused to eat. Given the high stress of surviving the flood and her wound, it wasn't a surprise that she had little appetite.

Because we provided support along with the care team, Pumpkin was treated and fostered until she healed and could find a forever home.



The Best Way to Stay Safe During Disasters: Prepare
Find key disaster preparedness information for cats at alleycat.org/Disaster.