Alley Cat Allies

October 30, 2026

Representative Adriana Gutiérrez Colón
Representative Nelie Lebrón Robles
Representative Denis Márquez Lebrón
El Capitolio, Plaza de la Democracia,
San Juan, PR

Dear Representatives Gutiérrez Colón, Lebrón Robles y Márquez Lebrón,

Alley Cat Allies would like to thank you for introducing P.C. 1543 and R.C. 0852. We especially appreciate the inclusion of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) within their primary framework. TNR is the only humane, effective approach to community cats, or unowned cats who live outdoors, and we are heartened to see policy that recognizes and supports Puerto Rico's cat community members.

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

Since 2023, Alley Cat Allies has been working in Puerto Rico to save the community cats of the famous Paseo del Morro from a National Park Service (NPS) plan to remove and kill them. Alley Cat Allies has provided comprehensive care for the Paseo cats and recently negotiated an agreement with the NPS to ensure they are no longer at risk of being killed.

Additionally, in collaboration with advocates and Puerto Rico leaders, we are helping lay the groundwork for expanded TNR, educational initiatives, and access to veterinary care and essentials such as cat food. The focus on education and training in P.C. 1543 and the analysis of existing protocols in R.C. 0852 represent exactly the approach that ensures authorities have the necessary knowledge to protect the cats, and all animals, of Puerto Rico, as well as their caregivers.

P.C. 1543 and R.C. 0852 are encouraging bills. If enacted, we would like to offer our experience and resources, so the authorities tasked with animal welfare have the training that empowers them to identify and enforce Puerto Rico laws. Attached with this letter is a one-pager that describes the Alley Cat Allies Cruelty Prevention and Justice Program to protect the lives of *all* cats in Puerto Rico.

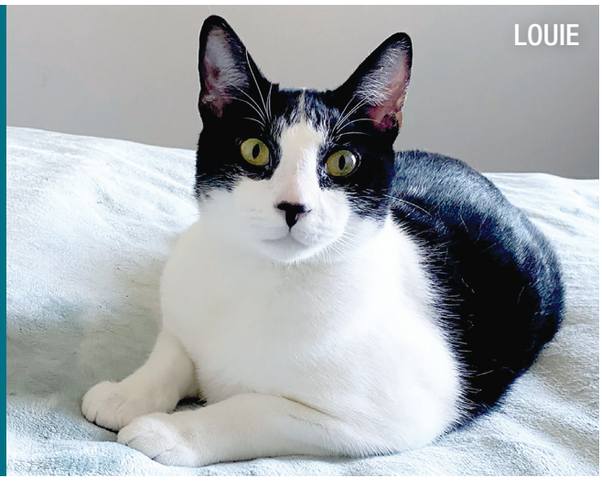
Alley Cat Allies cares deeply about Puerto Rico's cats and the people who care for them, and we recognize the potential for these bills to further strengthen protections through proven programs like TNR. If you have any questions or would like to meet with our team, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Daniel López

Daniel López
Director of Cruelty Prevention and Justice
Alley Cat Allies

Alley Cat Allies®
Cruelty Prevention and Justice Program

Alley Cat Allies fights to end cruelty to cats in all forms. Our team of animal cruelty experts can provide:



Law Enforcement Support
- Direct outreach to animal law enforcement.
- Training on recognizing cruelty, preserving evidence, and handling cruelly treated cats.
- Standardized investigation checklists and report templates.
- Rapid-response consultation for officers handling active cruelty scenes.
- Joint case reviews with animal law enforcement.

Prosecutorial Assistance
- Direct outreach to prosecutors.
- Case file organization, timelines, and evidence summaries.
- Model charging language, search warrants.
- Access to expert veterinarian witnesses.
- Courtroom exhibit preparation (photos, diagrams, medical summaries).
- Amicus briefs for appeals.
- Legal education on animal cruelty statutes, trends, and appellate updates.

Medical Care and Victim Support
- Subsidization of immediate veterinary treatment, including complex surgery, for cat victims of cruelty.
- Long-term rehabilitation support for cats impacted by cruelty.
- Emergency boarding partnerships for cats seized in cruelty cases.
- Organization of appropriate long-term housing and adoption.
- Expert evidence documentation by veterinarians to provide to investigators and prosecutors.

Public Reporting and Rewards
- Direct work with law enforcement to set up a tip line or online reporting system.
- Significant cash rewards for information leading to a conviction.
- Media to promote rewards to encourage critical public tips and information.

Prosecutor and Sentencing Advocacy
- Letters supporting appropriate charges and meaningful sentencing.
- Community letter-writing campaigns for high-severity cases.
- Recognition program for offices demonstrating strong enforcement.

Veterinary and Forensic Resources
- On-call veterinary partners for assistance with exams, necropsies, medical documentation, and testimony.
- Subsidized forensic testing.
- Training for veterinarians to encourage participation in cruelty cases.
- Subsidized fees for veterinarian testimony in cruelty cases.

Public Court Advocacy
- Organized group attendance at hearings and protests.
- Peaceful courthouse presence.
- Court monitoring program to track case progression, pleas, and sentencing.

Community Education and Outreach
- Expert materials, training, and awareness campaigns about recognizing and reporting animal cruelty.
- Presentations for schools, community groups, and veterinary clinics.
- Storytelling highlighting successful cases and available resources.
- Partnerships with shelters and rescues for outreach events.

Legislative and Policy Work
- Advocacy for stronger animal cruelty laws, sentencing provisions, care bond statutes, mandatory reporting, and cross-reporting protocols.
- Recommendations to strengthen local and state cruelty laws.
- Model ordinances addressing neglect, cruelty, and humane standards.
- Collaboration with policymakers to close investigative or sentencing gaps.
- Testimony in support of or against key cruelty legislation.

Data Tracking and Research
- Statistical tracking of cruelty reports, filings, outcomes, and sentencing patterns.
- Reporting highlighting case data and trends.
- Academic partnerships for research on effective enforcement and prevention.

Contact:
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