



# ALLEY CAT RESCUE

AN ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION [www.SaveACat.org](http://www.SaveACat.org)

301-277-5595



FISCAL YEAR  
**2022**

ANNUAL  
REPORT



## Mission Statement

Alley Cat Rescue is leading the way in promoting humane and compassionate care for all cats.

### Our Work

- Promote compassionate and nonlethal care for ALL cats
- Help individuals locate free and low-cost spay/neuter programs
- Assist with cat behavioral problems to keep cats in their homes
- Educate the public about feline diseases
- Connect individuals with TNR groups through our national Cat Action Teams
- Protect the genetic integrity of the African Wildcat through TNR of feral cats

### Our Impact

- TNR thousands of feral cats plus promotes TNR globally
- Early age spay/neuter
- Vet Challenge has sterilized 130,000 cats
- Neuter before adoption
- Low cost spay/neuter
- Lowering cat intake at shelters

Helping Cats  
for 25 years!

## *From the Desk of Louise Holton*

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None of our work helping cats would be possible without the tremendous support we get from you, our donors! Your assistance has helped ACR not only implement TNR (trap-neuter-return) programs in several states, but it also buys food for our many colonies we care for on a daily basis. Your donations have also helped us rescue cats like Lemon and Citrus from overcrowded shelters, where they were taken after severe leg injuries. You enable ACR to rescue many litters of kittens from shelters and off the streets. Both places are not great for kittens. Shelters become full quickly and they don't have the proper resources to care for young kittens. And kittens on the streets have a tragically high mortality rate of 75%. Trapping and sterilizing community cats puts an end to this unnecessary suffering.

Again, we must say we are so very grateful to our donors as, without you, none of this life-saving work would be possible. We are willing and able to run out to help cats but it does take funding to do that.

Obviously we are limited in what we can physically do ourselves because so much hands-on work is needed, so we have partnered with other groups in numerous states who go out to trap and sterilize cats by helping to fund their projects. We have partnered with groups in Roanoke, Virginia since 2016. Thousands of cats have been sterilized through this endeavor.

Through several generous grants and donations from individuals, we have managed to sterilize thousands of community cats in South Africa to save the African wildcat, the ancestor of our domestic moggies! Check our website ([saveacat.org/awc-conservation-projects.html](http://saveacat.org/awc-conservation-projects.html)) to see how that work is progressing. African wildcats are part of the ecology in South Africa and in other parts of Africa and need help to survive.

We work globally when we can, and our Global Feral Fix Challenge brings veterinarians from across the world to sterilize community cats. Veterinarians from the U.S are joined by veterinarians in Canada, Croatia, Dubai, Greece, India, Japan, Nicaragua and South Africa and have sterilized over 300,000 cats through the Challenge.

We are working to get more governments, foreign and state, to support TNR. Many environmental groups have sadly turned the cat into a scapegoat for the depletion of birds and other wildlife, some demanding the removal of outdoor cats "by any means necessary." Of course the loss of wildlife is mainly caused by loss of habitat, but it is easier to blame cats than to tackle the biggest issue. Dr. Niels Pedersen supports ACR's position that if you remove cats from the landscape, there will be ecological consequences. This has been borne out on islands when they removed cats—the rabbits, rats and mice overtook the areas, causing the birds even more devastation.



Here in Maryland, we are lucky to receive a grant from the Maryland government who sees the need to help groups like Alley Cat Rescue TNR feral cats. We would like to see every state government do the same. Millions of independent volunteers have stepped up across the world to sterilize outdoor community cats. Most use their own hard earned money. They need more funding and resources to help them.

Louise Holton  
President/Founder

# Rescue Stories



Brie & Kittens

**Brie & Kittens** - 10-month-old Brie was abandoned in a box with her three newborn kittens. Alley Cat Rescue volunteers easily scooped up the kittens, but frightened Brie ran and needed to be trapped. When reunited with her babies, the family settled in comfortably. We got Brie and her kittens complete veterinary checkups and treatment as needed. We are happy to share that the kittens; Bean, Bamboo, and Blueberry; and mama are healthy and safe.



Mocha & Coconut

**Mocha & Coconut** - Coconut and Mocha were found all alone, dirty, and dehydrated. They were taken to the shelter and immediately put on the urgent list as shelters don't have the resources to feed babies 24/7. ACR immediately jumped into action to help these babies. The kittens are now safe and growing steadily.

Coconut, who is deaf, had a health scare when she began vomiting at a month old. ACR rushed her

to urgent care, where she was given fluids and medication. Tests revealed she simply had a common virus and she quickly recovered.

**Summer** - Summer was a special needs kitten that had swimmer syndrome, meaning his back legs were splayed out and he struggled to walk. We worked with a veterinarian and corrected his legs by doing physical therapy for several weeks. After a while, Summer was able to support his body and walk again.



Millie, Davey, and Daniel

**Millie, Davey, and Daniel** - These adorable tuxedo littermates seemed perfectly healthy until the boys started sneezing excessively, causing their noses to bleed. A vet at the emergency clinic diagnosed them with calicivirus. We put the boys on medication and set them up with a humidifier and highly nutritious food. They made a full recovery and all three have found forever homes.

**Bandit & Claudia** - These two gentle souls were adopted from ACR years ago and sadly have come back to us due to unforeseeable circumstances. As with many adult cats, Bandit and

Claudia



Claudia had trouble adjusting to the sudden changes and loss of their human. They were so fearful upon arrival that they needed to be housed away from other animals and people, in a quiet room. ACR volunteers and staff focused special attention on them to comfort them and show them they were safe. After some time and lots of love, Bandit and Claudia no longer hide from us and even approach to be brushed and cuddled.

Bandit is diabetic and requires two insulin injections each day. He receives them with no trouble and he will be easy for whomever adopts him to medicate.



Cary Grant

surroundings and warms up to new people fairly quickly.



Butterscotch

**Cary Grant** - Cary Grant was a feral cat ACR TNR'd several years ago in a caring person's backyard. Eventually, he became comfortable enough around people that the homeowner was able to move him into her house, where they lived happily together. Recently, the homeowner passed away and ACR took Cary Grant into our foster program - we never abandon cats we have TNR'd or adopted out! He is adjusting well to his new

**Butterscotch** - Five - six week old Butterscotch was hit by a car and suffered a misaligned jaw, broken and missing teeth, a wound on one leg, and a fractured fibula and ulna. Her wound was cleaned, and her leg splinted and wrapped up to help the bone mend. The vet put her on antibiotics, fluids, and pain medication. On top of all that, she also had diarrhea and a cold/URI, for which she was also given medicine.



Sky

**Sky** - Little Sky had a tough start to life. He was rescued with a degloved chin and upper respiratory infection. During surgery to fix his chin, it was discovered he also had an inward deviation of the sternum called pectus excavatum, which caused him to have breathing issues while under anesthesia. After healing from his chin surgery and URI, Sky wanted to bounce around and play, but couldn't because of his breathing trouble.

He underwent an intense, complicated surgery to treat his pectus excavatum. The recovery period involved weeks of vet checkups and frequent bandage changes to clean the surgery site and plate that was attached to his chest.

*continued on page 4*



Frito

**Frito** - Frito had a cleft lip, which put him at high risk of aspiration pneumonia. It caused him to get chronic respiratory infections. He needed several vet visits and medication to get him healthy.

Frito was also diagnosed with cerebellar hypoplasia, or "wobbly kitten syndrome," by a neurologist and had to see a dental specialist to help with his cleft lip and dental issues. Alley Cat Rescue helped this gorgeous kitty with all the vet care he needed to improve his life. ACR found him a great home with a caretaker that has experience with special needs cats.

**Chex** - Alley Cat Rescue rescued Chex from a shelter as an urgent medical case. He was a stray kitten that had been hit by a car. We rushed Chex to an urgent care veterinarian, and X-rays showed his leg was fractured in two places. Today, he is healed and was adopted by his foster family!



Chex



Stella

**Stella** - We found Stella badly injured during a TNR project in Los Angeles several years ago. Her ears had been cut and her leg had been broken in two places. Due to the horrid way that her leg had been broken it had to be amputated. Stella had no trouble adjusting to being a tripod and was adopted into a wonderful family with her adopted brother. The family feeds a small colony of community cats too!

**Cornbread** - Adorable Cornbread developed the deadly FIP virus as a kitten. He required two rounds of daily antiviral injections, over a period of 12 weeks for each round. The treatment was intense for both him, his foster, and ACR but it was worth it! Cornbread is now an FIP survivor.

## Getting In Front of the Debate

### Alley Cat Rescue Sends Letter Endorsing Trap-Neuter-Return to Environmental Leaders Around the Globe

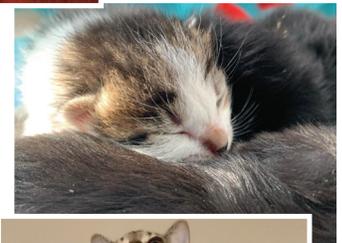


In reaction to the Polish Academy of Sciences' recent classification of domestic cats (*Felis catus*) as an "invasive alien species," Alley Cat Rescue penned an open letter to environmental leaders of multiple Island and other nations, urging them to reject any policies that promote cat culling and to manage feral cat populations through the nonlethal practice of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

Over 160 veterinarians, animal welfare groups, and other cat professionals signed in support of the letter, which we then sent to the heads of the economic departments of Australia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Galapagos Islands, Haiti, Iceland, Indonesia,

Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Mauritius, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, and the USA. We selected these countries due to their unique wildlife, which some conservationists believe are threatened by feral cat predation.

The full letter and list of signers is available on Alley Cat Rescue's website at <https://www.saveacat.org/tnr-support-letter.html>.



## US Shelters Overflowing! Fosters & Adopters Needed!!

It is estimated that shelters are housing around 100,000 more dogs and cats than at this time last year. There are several reasons for this, including staff shortages due to Covid-19, inflation, which is making it harder for families to afford adopting a pet or keeping the pets they have, and a housing crisis.

Then, of course, there is kitten season. City, county, and private shelters are bursting at the seams. This means that healthy, adoptable animals are at high risk of being euthanized. Several shelters had announced ahead of July 4, 2022 that they may have to euthanize animals – something they have not needed to do in many years.

Even the cats and dogs who have a space in the shelter, at least for now, often suffer emotionally and psychologically because there are not enough staff and volunteers to attend to them. In some shelters, kittens are getting only 10 - 20 minutes of playtime with a caretaker. This isn't enough to keep a kitten feeling content or loved, and that scant human interaction can lead to unsocialized behavior in kittens, which then makes their chances of adoption less, and future relinquishment back to a shelter greater.

Many shelters are trying to combat overcrowding by offering limited-time free or half-cost adoptions. Whether this will have a great enough impact on the problem for many of them remains to be seen, but if nothing else, the concurrent adoption push from such a large number of shelters is certainly raising awareness.

**Call to Action!** There are a few ways that individuals can pitch in and save some lives.

- Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) community cats in your neighborhood or workplace. This helps decrease

cats being born outdoors and overwhelming shelters.

- Volunteering at your local shelter or rescue group to socialize and exercise the animals will improve their quality of life and make them more adoptable.
- If you have space in your home to add a pet to your family, adopting a pet may save their life and will definitely free up space at the shelter so another cat or dog isn't euthanized.
- If you can't adopt, or if you prefer, fostering is an amazing gift to shelter animals! The best part about fostering is that once your foster finds a forever home, you can foster another animal, and on and on...saving many lives!
- Spread the word about the importance of adopting from a shelter or rescue instead of from a breeder. Tell you friends and family!

There are thousands of animals at risk in shelters who need a savior. They are all entitled to full lives.



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## Over 50,000 Community Cats Spayed/Neutered During ACR's 2022 Feral Fix Challenge



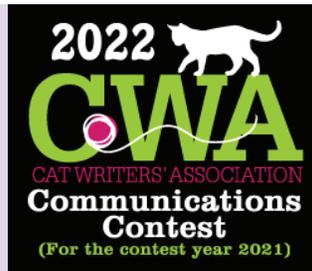
The Alley Cat Rescue Feral Fix Challenge is a global event that invites veterinarians to get involved with trap-neuter-return (TNR) by providing low-cost or free spay/neuter surgeries and rabies vaccinations for free-roaming cats. The goal of the Challenge is to save feral cats from shelter euthanasia, starvation, and disease by humane population management.

December 31, 2022 marked the conclusion of the Challenge's 12th year - and it was one of the most successful so far! The 2022 Challenge saw participation from veterinarians and clinics across 25 U.S. states as well as Greece, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates, who together sterilized around 51,000 community cats. In past years, vets from all 50 U.S. states, Antigua, Canada, Croatia, England, India, Israel, Japan, and Nicaragua have also taken part in the Challenge. The grand total of cats spayed or neutered as a result of the yearly Challenge is over 230,000.



## Help Us Buy a New Catmobile!

We transport cats to and from veterinary clinics in Maryland for TNR and urgent medical treatment almost every day. Our current van is on its last legs and we really must get a new one soon! Please consider donating toward this essential purchase! Donate at [www.gofundme.com/f/VanForACR](http://www.gofundme.com/f/VanForACR)



Alley Cat Rescue is proud to have been awarded a 2022 Cat Writers' Association Certificate of Excellence Award in the following categories:

### Short Health Article

for "North American Animal Shelters Struggling From Prolonged Effects of COVID"

### Short Wild Felines Article

for "From the Desk of Louise Holton"

### Periodical/National Circulation Publication

for the ACR 2020 Annual Report  
and the ACR 2021 Cat Report

### Social Media Excellence (Entertainment)

for ACR Instagram Page

## 2022 Financial Report

### SUPPORT & REVENUE

#### *Public Support:*

Contributions and Donations .....	\$2,052,896
Legacies and Bequests .....	\$381,148
Grants.....	\$593,386
<b>Total Public Support.....</b>	<b>\$3,027,430</b>
Other Revenue .....	\$162,753
Merchandise .....	\$24,033
<b>Total Support and Revenue .....</b>	<b>\$3,214,216</b>

### EXPENSES

#### *Programs:*

Newsletters and Publications .....	\$314,660
Advocacy & Promoting Spay/Neuter ...	\$358,551
Education and Public Relations.....	\$260,916
Direct Care & Services .....	\$834,751
National & Global Programs .....	\$306,211
Campaigns & Outreach .....	\$279,000
<b>Total Program Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$2,354,089</b>

#### *Supporting Services:*

Management and General.....	\$100,883
Development .....	\$369,553
<b>Total Supporting Services .....</b>	<b>\$470,436</b>
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$2,824,525</b>





These items and MORE can also be purchased through our online store:  
<http://www.saveacat.org/store.html>

## ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Order Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

#	ITEM	PRICE	SIZE (Please Circle)	COLOR (Please Circle)	# OF ITEMS	\$ TOTAL
1	Black V-neck T-shirt	\$20	S M L XL 2XL			
2	African Wildcat Shoulder Tote Bag	\$10	S L			
3	Smoke Gray ACR Cat Silhouette Long Sleeved Shirt	\$30	S M L XL 2XL			
4	ACR Cat Silhouette T-Shirt	\$25	S M L XL 2XL	lilac, teal, white, storm		
5	NEW! ACR Sneaky Cat T-Shirt	\$22	S M L XL 2XL	lilac, teal, white, storm		
6	Blue ACR Bracelet	\$10	S M L			
7	African Wildcat Bracelet	\$10	S M L			
8	African Wildcat T-shirt	\$13	M L XL			
9	NEW! Sneaky Cat Tote Bag	\$15				
10	Cat Rescue's Guide to Managing Community Cats Paperback	\$6				
11	END-OF-PRODUCTION SALE! ACR Tote Bag	2 for \$5		navy		

Please send checks made out to Alley Cat Rescue or provide your credit card information below.

Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ CCV# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Sales Tax: 6% for Maryland residents. 9.5% for California residents.

NO sales tax for all other states.

\*\*Flat shipping rate of \$5.99 on ALL items.

All donations are tax-deductible.

SUB TOTAL	\$
Sales Tax	+\$
Shipping**	+5.99
Donation	+\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>

RETURN COMPLETED ORDER FORM TO  
 ALLEY CAT RESCUE  
 PO BOX 585, MT RAINIER, MD 20712

# Meet Our Team

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Louise Holton, *President/Founder*  
Desiree Stapley, MS, RD  
Marsha Dabolt, *Outlaw Kitties*  
Peggy Hilden, *Treasurer*  
Virginia Messina, MPH, RD  
Susanna Delman, MPH

## **ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

Elizabeth Marshall Thomas  
Verne Smith, Esq.  
Roger Tabor, CBoil, FSB, MPhil, FCFBA, FBNAhc

## **OUR DEDICATED STAFF**

Louise Holton, *President/Founder*  
Rose Dixon, *Administrative Assistant*  
Debbie Holzer, *Fundraising Assistant*  
Sherry Howard, *Administrator*  
Cheryl Noll, *Volunteer Colony Caretaker*  
Desiree Stapley, *Volunteer Director of Planning & Administration*

Jennifer Martinez, *Research & Communications Intern*  
Virginia Leavitt, *Research & Writing Intern*

# Support Our Work Saving Lives

## **Planned Giving - Annuities**

Annuities can help you reach your personal financial goals while serving your commitment to our work helping cats. Enjoy tax-saving and turn appreciated assets into income for yourself. Charitable gift annuities allow you to make a gift of \$10,000 or more and receive fixed interest payments for life, as well as tax deductions. For more information, contact your financial planner or get in touch with us:

Alley Cat Rescue  
Phone: 301-277-5595  
Email: [acr@saveecat.org](mailto:acr@saveecat.org)  
Mail: PO Box 585, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712

## **Wills and Bequests**

You can support our work for cats far into the future by including Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. in your estate plans. This will ensure that your love and care for cats continues on and provides you with the peace of mind that your legacy will continue to help cats in need. Contact your financial planner to determine the best way to support Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. in your estate plan.

Suggested bequest language: "I give (specific dollar amount or property) to Alley Cat Rescue, Inc., having its principal office at 3906 Rhode Island Ave., Brentwood, MD 20722, for its general-purpose to help stray, abandoned, and feral cats and kittens. Tax ID: 52-2279100."

## **Stock Donations**

Donating stocks offers great benefits; not only are stock donations income tax-deductible, they also enable donors to save on capital gains taxes. To request a Stock Donation Form, Email [debbie@saveecat.org](mailto:debbie@saveecat.org) or download it from our website at [saveecat.org/donate.html](http://saveecat.org/donate.html).

## CALL TO ACTION!

### Send a Copy of ACR's Guide to Managing Community Cats to Your Local Shelter

If your local shelter has a TNR program, they will find this handbook full of useful information that can be shared with their staff, volunteers, and fosters!

If your local shelter does not already do TNR, we hope this book will inspire them to create a program - and save thousands of lives!

Please Email [debbie@saveecat.org](mailto:debbie@saveecat.org) with your shelter's name and mailing address (and manager's name if you know it) and we will mail them a free copy.

We will *not* share your name with the recipient unless you request we do so.

