



ALLEY CAT RESCUE

ALLIANCE FOR CAT PROTECTION

Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of cats everywhere.

www.SaveACat.org • 301-277-5595 • PO Box 96499, Washington, DC 20077

RESCUE STORIES



Guppy

Guppy - Guppy made a surprise appearance at a managed colony of community cats when he was just a very young kitten, searching for a bite to eat. The caretaker responsible for the colony picked up the young kitten, and it didn't take long for Guppy to develop a strong

bond with humans and adapt to an indoor lifestyle!



Tory

Tory - An unfortunate incident unfolded on our property when a tiny 8-week-old kitten named Tory was abandoned. She was found tightly wrapped in a black plastic garbage bag, with only her little head peeping out. Fortunately, someone made this discovery early in the morning, preventing her from being exposed to the scorching sun later in the day. Despite the distressing circumstances, a visit to the veterinarian revealed that Tory was in good health and miraculously unharmed.



Dewey - Five-week-old Dewey's journey began when he was discovered alone on the unforgiving streets and brought to the nearest shelter. His condition was heart-wrenching; he suffered from a severe eye infection that had tragically led to the rupture of his eye, leaving him in excruciating pain. Dewey was also battling a barrage of other issues, including a flea infestation, an upper respiratory infection, and severe emaciation. Recognizing the direness of his situation, shelter staff urgently reached out for an emergency rescue.

Upon being alerted to Dewey's plight, we immediately stepped in to provide him with the opportunity for life and the critical care he so desperately needed. Following treatment for all of his ailments, a shocking revelation came to light - both of Dewey's front paws were afflicted by infections that caused his claws to fall out! Yet, with unwavering determination and support, Dewey rallied.

After having his badly damaged eye surgically removed, receiving a blood transfusion, and dedicated care, Dewey is thriving. He's achieved a healthy weight, his claws have regrown, and his fluffy fur is as soft and luxurious as can be. Dewey's remarkable transformation stands as a testament to the power of compassion and the resilience of the feline spirit.



Dewey

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New Crisis in American Shelters

It was heart-wrenching to see a recent post on Facebook showing a beautiful Siamese kitten who was taken to a local animal shelter, only to be turned away and the poster told to put the kitten back where she found her. This situation raises some important points about the treatment of stray and abandoned cats and the need for effective measures to address this issue.

The response from the shelter, asking the rescuer to return the kitten to where she was found, is indeed concerning. This approach doesn't take into account the welfare of the kitten, and it's not a solution for the long-term well-being of stray and abandoned animals. There are more humane and effective methods that can be employed, such as TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) programs.

TNR programs have shown success in reducing the population of community cats while also ensuring their health and well-being. They involve trapping, sterilizing, and vaccinating community cats and then returning them to their original location under managed care. This approach helps control population growth and ensures that the cats are healthier and not contributing to overpopulation and the spread of diseases.

In the case of young kittens that can be socialized and adopted into loving homes, it's important to remove them from community colonies. This not only improves their chances of survival but also reduces the overall population of community cats in the long run. Kittens in community cat colonies often face harsh conditions, including fleas and parasites, which can be life-threatening.

The stats show that Americans love their companion animals. There are 79 million cats living in American households. Even though euthanasia rates are down from 20 years ago, still 378,000 cats lost their lives needlessly in 2022, and close to an additional 100,000 cats died in shelters due to illness and not thriving in the shelter setting. Fifty five percent of the animals killed in shelters are cats.

Another stark statistic—only 10 percent of the animals entering shelters are neutered. This is the biggest problem facing the U.S. How to get more cats (and dogs) neutered.

Promoting the neutering of cats and dogs is a fundamental step in reducing the number of unwanted animals. It's important to raise awareness about the importance of spaying and neutering to prevent overpopulation. Communities and individuals should work together to support and fund spay and neuter programs, making these services more accessible to pet owners.

Overall, this incident with the Siamese kitten highlights the need for more comprehensive and humane approaches to managing the stray and abandoned cat population in the United States. Advocacy, education, and community involvement are essential to make a positive change for these animals.



How you can help

- **Foster** - Shelters and Rescue groups could save so many more animals' lives if the public would offer to foster. Either a litter of kittens or an adult cat. It's a fun thing to do, plus you know you have helped save a life.
- **Volunteer**- Shelters and rescue groups can always use volunteer help.
- **Spay/Neuter** - Help everyone you know get their pet sterilized. First off it's much healthier for the animal. Secondly there are fewer behavioral problems with animals who are sterilized-- Help neighbors, friends and family rehome their cat if they really need to give him up. It's safer for the cat to be rehomed directly into a new home than to surrender the cat to a shelter where he could lose his life.
- **TNR** - Community cats live healthier, better lives if TNRd. It's the only safe and humane solution to reducing the number of cats living in back alleys and on the streets. Alley Cat Rescue's website has all the tools you need.

Louise

Louise Holton
President/Founder

RESCUE STORIES

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August - At the tender age of 2.5 months, August was found in a community cat colony with a severely broken back leg - a tragic sight. The injury was so severe that the bone had ruptured through his skin, causing him immense pain and fear. Faced with no other options to alleviate his suffering, the veterinarian made the difficult decision to amputate his leg. Almost immediately after the procedure, August experienced relief, and his indomitable spirit began to shine through. It proved challenging to keep him from attempting to dash and play as he healed. Once his stitches were removed, August wasted no time in embracing his feline nature, climbing and playing as if his amputation had never taken place, a testament to his resilience and zest for life.



Teddy - Four young kittens were brought to a compassionate veterinarian, each battling pneumonia and severe eye infections. Teddy, one of these brave little souls, faced a particularly grim situation—his eye infection was so dire that it necessitated the removal of his eye. Tragically, one of the kittens did not survive their ordeal. However, the other three resilient kittens persevered through their illness, albeit after an extended stay at the vet and intensive treatment.

Teddy required additional time for recovery as his surgery site did not heal quickly. But, in the end, his determination prevailed. Today, Teddy is back to full strength and has embraced his unique look, proudly sporting the title of a dashing feline pirate with an unbeatable spirit.



Dixie - Dixie's harrowing tale began when she was discovered unconscious, lying in sweltering 100-degree heat. She had fallen victim to heat stroke, a life-threatening condition. As we rushed her to the veterinarian, further examinations unveiled an even grimmer reality—Dixie had a broken pelvis, likely the result of being struck by a car. To compound her ordeal, she was struggling to breathe, and extensive tests determined that she had a tear in her diaphragm.

She had to have emergency surgery to mend her diaphragm. The procedure was a success, and Dixie's breathing returned to normal. However, her path to recovery was far from over. She required daily monitoring and pain medication, which extended her stay in the hospital for over a month.

Dixie's resilience and the dedicated care she received turned the tides of her misfortune, and today she stands as a testament to the incredible power of compassion and medical intervention in the face of the challenges faced by many abandoned cats.



Daisy & kittens - ACR, in its compassionate mission, stepped in to rescue Daisy and her six precious babies from a shelter. Daisy's aggressive behavior when people approached her kittens was a cause for concern, but ACR recognized that with experienced fosters who had a history of caring for nervous, and even feral, nursing cats, we could provide the right environment for this little family. After Daisy's bite hold at the shelter, ACR rushed to pick the family up and as it turned out, Daisy never showed any aggression again.

In a heartwarming twist, it became evident that Daisy

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RESCUE STORIES

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is, in fact, a sweet and people-loving girl, and her behavior at the shelter was a result of the stress she endured. She also emerged as an exceptional mother, ensuring the well-being and thriving of her kittens, and other older kittens in ACR's care. This story is a shining example of how love, care, and understanding can transform lives and bring out the best in both felines and humans alike.



JOIN US IN GETTING A NEW CATMOBILE!

Every day, we transport cats to and from veterinary clinics, providing vital spay and neuter and urgent medical treatment. Our current van has served us well, but it's now on its last legs.

We cannot continue this essential work without a reliable vehicle. Cats in our care depend on us for their well-being. Your support can make a significant difference.

Please consider making a donation towards the purchase of a new van. Your contribution will directly impact the lives of countless cats, ensuring they receive the care they need.

Here's how you can help:

Donate at www.gofundme.com/f/VanForACR

Your generosity matters. Together, we can ensure that these cats receive the care they deserve. Thank you for being a part of our mission to make a difference in the lives of our feline friends.



Microchips are the most reliable and permanent identification method for cats. In the unfortunate event that your feline friend goes missing, any person, rescue organization, or shelter that locates her can scan the microchip, enabling them to swiftly contact you and reunite you with your beloved pet.

Shelters frequently receive both surrendered and lost or stray cats on a daily basis. For every new cat that arrives at a shelter, another cat's life may be jeopardized as they risk being euthanized to free up a much-needed cage. Microchipping cats not only significantly enhances the likelihood of locating our furry companions but also contributes to the reduction of shelter overcrowding by preventing lost pets from enduring lengthy stays.

It is imperative to always keep your contact information associated with the microchip up to date. Shockingly, the Journal of the American Veterinary Association reports that only 58.1% of microchips are registered with accurate contact information, and approximately 35% of microchips scanned by shelters contain outdated or inaccurate details. Only 1% of cats in shelters are ever reclaimed by an owner as opposed to 20% of dogs.

UNPRECEDENTED OVERCROWDING IN SHELTERS

Shelter overcrowding has become a widespread issue across the country, stemming from decades of mismanagement in companion animal breeding and lack of TNR. The situation has recently reached new extremes due to a confluence of factors, including the pause in spay/neuter surgeries that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic and the current scarcity of veterinarians.

In many shelters, the situation has become so dire that some staff members are describing it as the worst overcrowding they've ever witnessed. The challenges are further underscored by the increased pleas for assistance coming from shelters, with a growing number of orphaned kittens and cats in need of critical medical care. Alley Cat Rescue volunteers have been acutely aware of this upsurge and have been working tirelessly to provide support in these challenging times.

Here are some ways you can help shelters in your area:

Participate in TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return): Educate yourself about TNR and get involved in your community. Anyone can learn how to trap or transport feral cats to low-cost spay/neuter clinics, which helps control the population of community cats and reduces the number of cats entering shelters.

Foster and Volunteer: Consider fostering cats or kittens from your local shelter or rescue group. Fostering provides a safe and temporary home for animals in need and can significantly increase their chances of finding permanent homes. If you're unable to foster, volunteer your time and skills at your local shelter or rescue. There are often various roles available, such as administrative work, animal care, or helping with events.

Transport and Support: Offer to transport animals to and from shelters or clinics. Sometimes, shelters need help getting animals to appointments or to their forever homes. Additionally, you can support shelters by taking photos of adoptable animals, collecting cat food and supplies, or assisting with other tasks that directly benefit the well-being of cats in their care.

Donate: If you're in a position to do so, consider making financial donations to your local shelter or rescue organization. These funds can help cover the costs of food, medical care, and other essentials for the animals.

Advocate and Raise Awareness: Use your voice to advocate for animal welfare and raise awareness about the importance of adopting from shelters and rescues. Encourage responsible pet ownership and educate others about the benefits of spaying and neutering their pets.

Support Adoption: When you or someone you know is considering getting a pet, encourage adoption from a shelter or rescue rather than purchasing from a breeder or pet store.



NONSURGICAL CONTRACEPTION - THE PROS AND CONS FOR COMMUNITY CATS

There is no question about it— trap-neuter-return (TNR) saves cats from suffering and dying. Cats who have been TNR'd face far fewer risks to their health than unsterilized, unmanaged community cats. The even more significant effect of TNR is that it prevents community cats from producing kittens, 75 percent of whom probably will die and suffer from painful diseases before reaching six months of age.

When we at ACR drop off a feral cat, secure in the trap, to be fixed at a clinic, our main feelings are of happiness and optimism. We know that in a few days, she will dash out of the trap, back to her outdoor home where she has the greatest chance at living a long, comfortable life.

A breakthrough contraceptive shot for female cats is showing a lot of promise. The shot uses gene therapy to stop the ovaries from producing eggs and so far, it does not appear to cause any side effects. The positive implications of a single-injection sterilant for female cats go even beyond benefitting sparing the cats from surgery. Females make up around half the outdoor cat population. If they could be sterilized in just minutes at the trapping site and by the trappers, that would be a huge step forward in ending cat overpopulation.

There are some practical hurdles and downsides to nonsurgical contraception. The shot is believed to

remain effective for about two years, maybe longer. That will be good for pets, and could certainly enable shelters to ensure all female cats are sterilized prior to adoption. However, to be useful for community cats, the sterilization must last for the lifetime of the cat. Community cats who receive basic daily care, as all should, can live well into their teens.

Another complication may be finding a way to identify cats who have been sterilized. We would need to find a replacement for ear tipping that is painless but also permanent and easy to see. One possible solution,



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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:

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Wills and Bequests

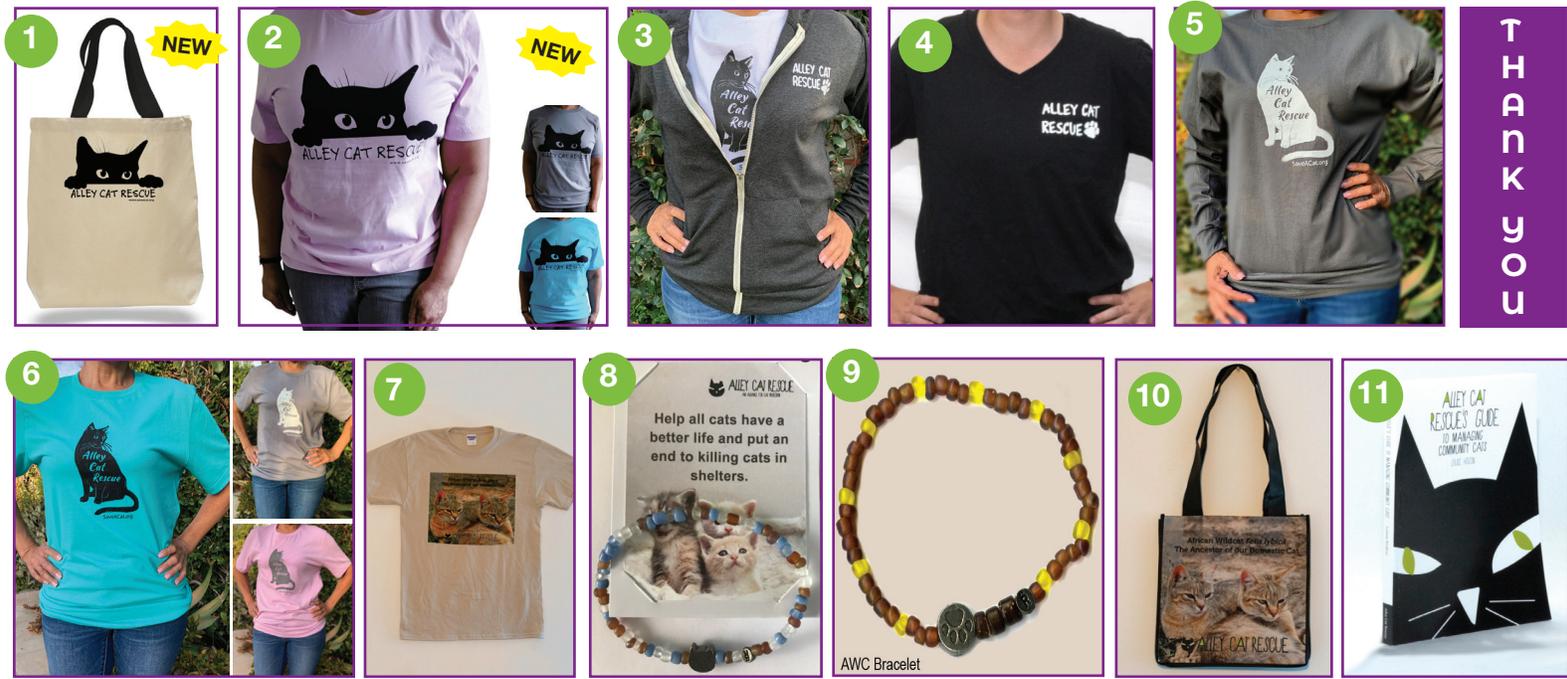
You can support our work for cats far into the future by including Alley Cat Rescue, Inc. in your estate plans. This will ensure that your love and care for cats continues on and provides you with the peace of mind that your legacy will continue to help cats in need. Contact your financial planner to 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 or download it from our website at saveecat.org/donate.html.





THANK YOU

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

ORDER FORM

Name _____ Order Total \$ _____

Address _____

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#	ITEM	PRICE	SIZE (Please Circle)	COLOR (Please Circle)	# OF ITEMS	\$ TOTAL
1	NEW! Sneaky Cat Tote Bag	\$19				
2	NEW! Sneaky Cat T-shirt	\$25	M L XL	teal, lilac, storm		
3	Charcoal Grey ACR Hoodie	\$35	S M L XL 2XL			
4	Black V-neck T-shirt	\$20	S M L XL 2XL			
5	Smoke Gray ACR Cat Silhouette Long Sleeved Shirt	\$30	S M L XL 2XL			
6	ACR Cat Silhouette T-Shirt	\$25	S M L XL 2XL	lilac, teal, white, storm		
7	African Wildcat T-shirt	\$13	M L XL			
8	Blue ACR Bracelet	\$10	S M L			
9	African Wildcat Bracelet	\$10	S M L			
10	African Wildcat Shoulder Tote Bag	\$10	S L			
11	Cat Rescue's Guide to Managing Community Cats Paperback (2015 edition)	\$3				

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

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

NO SALES TAX FOR ALL OTHER STATES.

**Flat shipping rate of \$7.50 on ALL items.

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NONSURGICAL CONTRACEPTION - THE PROS AND CONS FOR COMMUNITY CATS

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proposed by the Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs (ACC&D) is a tattoo patch, done with microneedles. The tattoos have been tested on a group of 97 dogs and cats and, according to the ACC&D, have not faded within the first three months, which is encouraging.

TNR pioneer, Dr. Julie Levy, has pointed out that cats sterilized by injection would still be susceptible to mammary and other cancers and diseases of the reproductive system that often occur in cats.* This must be a consideration for all cats, including pets. And, Dr. Levy reminds us, the hormonal behaviors of cats in heat, such as yowling, would also remain an issue.

Nonsurgical sterilization could be a TNR gamechanger. However, there are significant barriers to its use in community cats. It has taken two decades and teams of scientists to develop an injectable sterilant. If it does become commercially available, the torch must be passed to veterinarians and the TNR community, so that we find a way to make the sterilant work for the cats whom it will benefit the most.

**Reference:*

Grimm, David. "Hello Kitty, Goodbye Kittens? Gene Therapy Spays Cats Without Surgery." *Science*, 6 June 2023, www.science.org/content/article/hello-kitty-goodbye-kittens-gene-therapy-spays-cats-without-surgery.

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