

# ALLEY CAT ACTION<sup>®</sup>

Alley Cat Allies Newsletter | [alleycat.org](https://alleycat.org) | Spring 2024

For Alley Cat Allies' Over 1 Million Supporters and Activists Across the Nation and Around the World

## **DEFENDING TNR** and **Community Cats**

*A community cat  
in Royersford, Pennsylvania*

### **Alley Cat Allies defends lifesaving Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and exposes misrepresentation**

When Alley Cat Allies first formed in 1990, our raison d'être was to challenge a widespread mindset that nonlethal programs for cats were an out-of-reach ideal. At the time, TNR, the only humane and effective approach to community cats, was considered a pipe dream.

With the help of our earliest supporters—many of whom are with us to this day—Alley Cat Allies broke through barriers, proved the efficacy of TNR, and launched it into the mainstream. Today, TNR programs thrive in communities around the world.

But though TNR is backed by science and popular demand, it still faces dangerously misinformed portrayals in the media and beyond. TNR opposition calls for killing cats outdoors, all while dismissing TNR's effectiveness and insulting the people working hardest to help cats and their communities.

Alley Cat Allies confronts biased hit pieces against TNR in news outlets, including *The New Yorker*, and educates decision-makers and the public with the facts. In doing so, we defend TNR, cats, and our supporters like you, who care for and advocate for cats every day.

#### **What is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)?**

*The TNR process is simple: community cats are humanely trapped, brought to a veterinary clinic to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped (the universal sign that a cat has been spayed or neutered through a TNR program), and microchipped, then are returned to their outdoor homes.*

(See *Defending TNR and Community Cats* on page 2)



# DEFENDING TNR and Community Cats

(continued  
from page 1)

## The Facts About Community Cats and TNR

- **Community cats are at home outdoors.** They thrive in their outdoor homes and have thousands of years of history as members of our communities. They are bonded to their territory and their feline families.
- **TNR benefits cats and communities.** Spaying or neutering means fewer kittens born outdoors and the end of stresses related to mating or pregnancy. Additionally, vaccinations provided during TNR improve cats' health and address community health concerns—though cats are extremely unlikely to spread rabies, toxoplasmosis, or any other diseases.
- **TNR is sound public policy.** It reduces calls to animal control, the number of cats entering (and being killed in) shelters, and taxpayers' expense, all while meeting public demand for effective, meaningful, and lifesaving action for cats.
- **Killing cats doesn't work.** TNR opponents' "alternatives" to TNR come down to rounding up

and killing cats. However, this was the status quo for decades and failed miserably due to the Vacuum Effect—a phenomenon in which other cats move in to take advantage of the resources that sustained the colony that was removed.

- **Cats have an important place in ecosystems.** Whenever they are removed in large numbers, the consequences are dire—not just for the cats but for local wildlife. The reality is cats are not a major threat to wildlife species, endangered or otherwise.
- **We can protect both cats and wildlife.** By advocating for stronger TNR programs AND policies that curb human-led activities that are the true threats to wildlife—like habitat destruction and pollution—we improve the lives of cats, wildlife, and us all.

It's time for communities, local governments, and media outlets to stop wasting words, money, and time on calls to backtrack to the dark ages of killing cats and kittens endlessly. TNR is the only way forward.

***Our defense of TNR is expanded upon in a larger piece at [alleycat.org/DefendTNR](http://alleycat.org/DefendTNR).***



*A community cat  
in Buena Vista, Virginia*

## 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:



### QUESTIONS?

Looking for assistance with cats? Get the help you need!  
[alleycat.org/GetHelp](http://alleycat.org/GetHelp)



### DONATE

Support our work with cats and kittens.  
[alleycat.org/Donate](http://alleycat.org/Donate)



### LEARN

Advocate for cats in your community.  
[alleycat.org/CommunityChange](http://alleycat.org/CommunityChange)



### TAKE ACTION

Receive our action alerts and other emails.  
[alleycat.org/SignUp](http://alleycat.org/SignUp)



# RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

**Saves Cats During Historic Texas Fires**

With smoke still choking the air and charred landscape on either side of them, an Alley Cat Allies Rapid Response Team drove

directly into the Texas communities most impacted by the historic Smokehouse Creek Fire to deliver lifesaving support for cats and kittens.

The Smokehouse Creek Fire was the largest in Texas history and among the largest ever recorded in the United States. As is usually the case with disasters, cats—who are incredible survivors—slowly emerged within the fire zones, some in need of emergency care.



Just days into the disaster, Alley Cat Allies was on the ground delivering that care as well as critical supplies—including

medical supplies like burn cream and vet wrap, cat food, and more—to Fritch, Canadian, and other impacted communities. When we first contacted organizations on the ground to offer our assistance, we were met with relief and gratitude. Many told us we were the first nonlocal organization to extend a helping hand for companion animals.



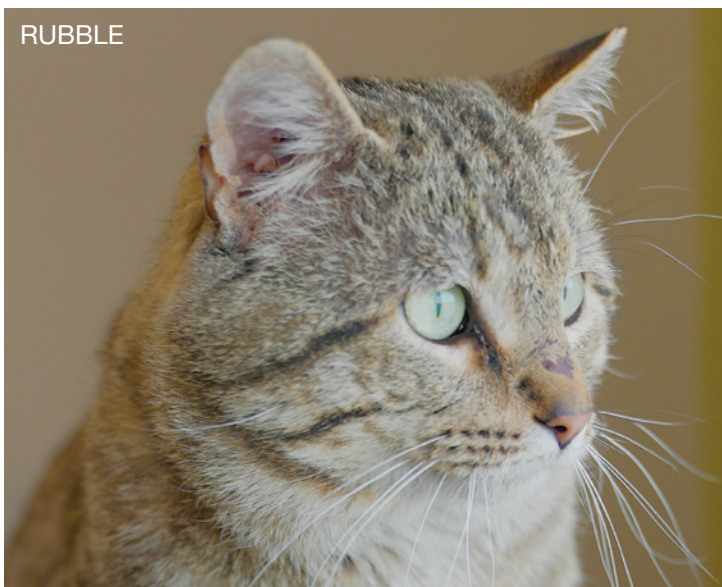
PHOENIX

For cats like Rubble, Phoenix, and Mona, our team's quick response was life changing. Rubble, a gregarious tabby, was found alone in a burnt-out trailer. Phoenix was found with whiskers singed and curled from flames and burn wounds on his paws that were slow to heal. Mona, sweet as can be, needed a veterinary exam and support to unwind from the harrowing ordeal. All suffered from the effects of smoke inhalation.

Alley Cat Allies took in all three cats to provide them continuing care and, eventually, find them adoptive families of their own.

Cats are too often overlooked as victims of emergencies. Alley Cat Allies won't let their lives slip through the cracks—and we know you won't, either.

**Learn how you can protect your family, including your cats, in the event of disaster. Visit [alleycat.org/Disaster](https://alleycat.org/Disaster).**



RUBBLE



MONA





# NO Cat is an Island

## Defending community cats and lifesaving programs in island communities

Tropical islands bring to mind warm breezes, the briny, calming scent of the ocean, and thriving flora and fauna. But for cats and kittens who are at home on many islands, their lives in paradise are threatened by lethal action at the hands of misguided governments.

Alley Cat Allies is stepping up in several island communities to protect cats, challenge deadly policies, and train the next generation of our movement.

### Puerto Rico



MUFASINA

San Juan, Puerto Rico

In a historic action, Alley Cat Allies filed a lawsuit against the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) to save San Juan’s community cats from eradication. We aim to put an end to NPS’s cruel, futile, and unlawful plan to remove and kill cats on federal lands in Puerto Rico.

For generations, community cats have lived in peace along the rocky shores of the scenic Paseo Del Morro. They are adored by locals and tourists alike and are woven into the fabric of Puerto Rican culture. Now they face a deadly threat from the NPS, which is determined to rip the cats from their natural outdoor homes and their community, including by lethal means.

Alley Cat Allies has worked with local advocates and connected with the local government to stop this

deadly scheme. We’ve also provided a grant for Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), veterinary care, food, and other services for the Paseo del Morro cats.

We won’t back down when cats’ lives are on the line

[Learn more at alleycat.org/PuertoRico.](http://alleycat.org/PuertoRico)

### The Cayman Islands



A community cat in Grand Cayman

Alley Cat Allies does not stand silent as cats are scapegoated—and killed—for wildlife species loss because governments don’t want to confront the true cause: human-led development. For the past year and a half, we’ve condemned government removal and killing of Cayman Islands cats, and we continue to take measures to shield them from cruel and pointless lethal control.

As we keep up the fight, we’re also leading the way with humane, effective policies. Our grants to local organizations are providing ongoing TNR and other critical care to hundreds of Cayman Islands cats and kittens. The gratitude of these cats’ caregivers and families is the proof: Cayman Islands residents care about their cats, and our voice on cats’ behalf is THEIR voice, too.

[Learn more at alleycat.org/CaymanIslands.](http://alleycat.org/CaymanIslands)

### Saint Kitts and Nevis

Growing a powerful movement means ensuring the next generation is ready to take up the lifesaving mantle. That’s why we launched the Alley Cat Allies Veterinarian Training Program™, starting in the Caribbean islands of Saint Kitts and Nevis!

In late March, Alley Cat Allies presented to students and licensed veterinarians at the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine about community cats,

*(See No Cat is an Island on page 5)*

# NO Cat is an Island

(continued from page 4)

cats on Saint Kitts and Nevis, and we're proud to give them the tools for even greater success.

best practices for TNR, and unique veterinary and surgical techniques tailored to helping unowned cats who live outdoors. Some of these incredible students are already providing critical care and education to help

Since our founding in 1990, Alley Cat Allies has guided veterinary professionals to develop best practices and familiarize themselves with treating community



T'CHALLA

cats and carrying out TNR. The goal of our Veterinarian Training Program is to help both experienced and novice veterinarians bring the most effective TNR techniques to their communities to save more lives.

[Learn more at alleycat.org/VetTraining.](http://alleycat.org/VetTraining)



## PROFILE IN GENEROSITY

### Diana Greenspan

With all of her community cat experience, Diana chose to support Alley Cat Allies because she loves and shares our vision and mission to defend all cats and kittens. "I can't imagine my life without cats being part of it," she said.

Alley Cat Allies' goal is to inspire people worldwide to become the kind of dedicated,

The incredible donors who make our work possible aren't just compassionate advocates for cats; they're often on the ground saving cats' lives, too! Diana, a major donor to Alley Cat Allies, has been a steadfast supporter since 2018—but has been carrying out Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) for community cats for far longer.

For 25 years, inspired by her love for her late cat companion, Tiger, Diana has cared for cats outdoors and even, at times, rescued orphaned kittens. She says her South Carolina community has come to embrace their community cats, and she works with fellow advocates to provide TNR, outdoor shelters, and regular care.



Diana Greenspan and her cat Archie

effective cat advocate that Diana embodies. That is how we truly build a world where every cat's life is valued and protected.

You can join our movement with a donation at [www.alleycat.org/Donate](http://www.alleycat.org/Donate). Or, consider a planned gift at [alleycat.org/PlannedGiving](http://alleycat.org/PlannedGiving) (CFC#10964) (EIN #52-1742079). For more information, call 866-309-6207.

If you are already a donor, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You are helping us save cats' lives every single day.



**Alley Cat Allies** ALLEY CAT ACTION, Volume 34, Issue 3, SPRING 2024

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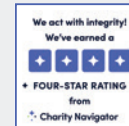
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### OUR MISSION:

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



## We **BEAT** the **HEAT**®



This is the time of year when you're most likely to see kittens outdoors: those warm spring months that roll into summer known as "kitten season." But thanks to our supporters like you, thousands of cats won't endure the stresses of mating, pregnancy, and birth this season—and fewer kittens will enter shelters without the right programs to care for them.

### **A Feline Frenzy® in Tennessee**

This spring, 100 indoor and community cats in Wilson County, Tennessee, were spayed or neutered and vaccinated through Alley Cat Allies Feline Frenzy® events. We're also helping around 700 more cats and kittens through ongoing food bank support.

"Alley Cat Allies choosing to support the Middle Tennessee area is going to make a great impact. It is literally life-changing," said Angela Chapman, director of New Leash on Life—the organization with which we held the *Feline Frenzy*. "Spaying and neutering 100

cats and helping to feed hundreds more will have a ripple effect for years to come, helping cats stay with their families and out of shelters."

The surprise and gratitude of each caregiver who attended the events is proof of why this support is so needed. No-cost resources are more important than ever in today's climate, and Feline Frenzy is about helping communities like Wilson County create significant and lasting change for cats.

[Learn more at alleycat.org/FelineFrenzy.](https://alleycat.org/FelineFrenzy)

### **Atlantic County TNR and Food Bank Supports Thousands of Cats**



Alley Cat Allies has worked closely with the community of Atlantic County, New Jersey, for decades to launch

active TNR programs and protect cats and kittens. But in the past year, we've kicked our efforts into high gear, providing ongoing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), spay and neuter, medical care, and a unique no-cost cat food bank for all local cats.

This robust new program has helped more than 3,000 cats and kittens with veterinary care since 2023 and handed out tens of thousands of pounds of cat food for indoor and community cats!

