

Alley Cat Advocates



(502)634-8777 contactus@alleycatadvocates.org

Volume 5, Issue 2

Winter 2005

Message from our Board Chair

What a Wonderful Year!

Without a doubt, 2004 was a wonderful year for the cats that crossed our path. And we made some important decisions that put in place a momentum that will allow us to help even more in 2005.

Highlights of the year are many. One includes preparing a first class surgical suite at our clinic location that allows us to use eight veterinarians comfortably at one time. The vets like it and the cats, well, they're asleep when in the room so they have no comment.

We also changed some internal procedures to allow us to distribute and receive our traps and carriers right from our clinic location. This has been wonderfully received by caretakers who now benefit from onsite training on trapping and the opportunity to ask

questions when they pick up the traps they need for trapping their colony.

And, of course, we altered cat number 5000 in October, the same month we spoke at the National Feral Cat Conference in New York City. And then in November, we altered a record 207 cats in one month. And, while numbers for December are not yet final, we already know that we altered over 1750 cats this past year, an all time record for us.

And finally there's the Two Mauds grant we learned of receiving in December (see below). That will help propel us into 2005 with all the fireworks we can stand!

Thanks to everyone and watch out 2005!

Karen Little

Gallopalooza Horse Helps Unowned Cats!

Thanks go to Eddie and Robin Harper of Harper's Service Center in Taylorsville for selecting Alley Cat Advocates to receive over **\$1100** from the sale of their Gallopalooza horse. New volunteers with Alley Cat Advocates, the Harpers will now get to watch that money transform itself into happy, healthy, spayed or neutered cats!

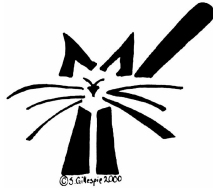
More Lucky Cats!

Alley Cat Advocates has been awarded a \$6000 grant from Two Mauds, Inc. Two Mauds grants funds to organizations whose work prevents or relieves the exploitation and suffering of animals. Our grant will help us increase the number of spays and neuters we do through our QUICK FIX program by reducing surgery costs for caretakers. See page 3 for a fuller explanation of our QUICK FIX and BIG FIX programs.

**Alley Cat Advocates is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization.
Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.**

TIP'S TIP

Back by popular demand! See more about shelters for our outside friends on page 3.



Thanks!

Dr. Patricia Kennedy and the staff at Jefferson Animal Hospital
Dr. Joe Deck and the staff at Deck Veterinary Clinic
Drs. Chris Albert, Elizabeth Banks, Denise Bevins, Leslie Brown, Kendall Clay, Marie Gagnon, Teresa Gregory, Luanne Jensen, Carolyn Kacocha, Valerie Mahoney, Alexis Wallace, and Pam Williams for donating their veterinary services for our BIG FIXes
Bluegrass.net for hosting our website
Ron Reinstedler of Graphic Design of Louisville for printing services

Gifts in Honor of

Mike, by Renate White

Our grandmother, by the Carden grandchildren

Gifts in Memory of

Beautiful *Ava*, by Bette Lee and Mike Taylor

Calico, by Karen and Hoyt Little

Charlotte, our beloved stray kitty, by the Roberts/Holliday Family

Mr. D., the greatest cat friend anyone could ever have. You will always be missed and in our hearts and prayers, by Michael and Joanne Meshew

Ellen, a true lover of life, by Karen and Hoyt Little

Jenna, my six-toed beauty, by Lynn Kumar

Kenya Kitty, by Bette Lee and Mike Taylor

Little Prissy, loved stray kitty of Anna Phelps, by Alley Cat Advocates' volunteers

Mike (with gall bladder now unplugged), by Alley Cat Advocates' volunteers

Mouth, Paula Mattingly's friend, by an anonymous donor

Tootsie, Bojo, and Shadow, by Sue Smith

Alley Cat Advocates
#204
3020 Bardstown Rd
Louisville, KY 40205
(502) 634-8777

Email:
Contactus@alleycatadvocates.org

Website:
www.alleycatadvocates.org

Executive Director
Hoyt Little

Board of Directors
Eric Anderson
Bonita Black
Carolyn Kacocha, DVM
Karen Little
Jessica Pitts
Pam Williams, DVM

Mission
To provide for the humane treatment of unowned cats by directing a safe, high-volume, cost effective Trap-Neuter-Return program

To be removed from the mailing list, please call us at (502) 634-8777.

Alley Cat Advocates honors your privacy. We neither give, sell, or loan our mailing list to anyone.

We are always looking for assistance in a variety of different ways. If you are interested in supporting our cause at Alley Cat Advocates, please be sure to mark one of the adjacent boxes, include your name, phone number and address, then return it to us at:

Alley Cat Advocates
#204
3020 Bardstown Rd
Louisville, KY 40205

I would like to support Alley Cat Advocates . . .

- I am interested in learning more about your organization. Please call me with more information.
- I would like to serve ACA as a volunteer. Please contact me so that I may learn more about the ways I can help.
- I believe in your cause and would like to make the following tax deductible donation.
 - \$10
 - \$25
 - \$50
 - Other

Name _____ Phone # _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How We Help the Cats

We offer two ways to get unowned, stray cats spayed or neutered: The BIG FIX and the QUICK FIX.

The BIG FIX is used by 90% of the caretakers (people who care for unowned, stray cats) who call us for spay/neuter help. The BIG FIX is held twelve times a year, typically once a month. This is an all volunteer event — even the veterinarians are volunteers — at which we spay or neuter an average of 130 cats on one weekend. For this service we require no set fee but, as nothing is free, we do actively seek donations! While the "price" might be right, the demand for the BIG FIX is overwhelming and the wait for a caretaker to be scheduled is typically four months.

For some, the QUICK FIX is a better option. And, as you might guess, one is scheduled more quickly if this option is selected, typically within two weeks of the call. A QUICK FIX surgery is performed at a private veterinarian's office during regular business hours. As such, we require payment for services while, of course, also accepting donations. Through 2004, the required payment has been \$50. But, with the Two Mauds, Inc. grant of \$6000 announced on page 1, we will now be able to offer this option for \$25 per cat after we combine the grant funds, the discount offered by the clinic, and additional Alley Cat Advocates funds. This includes a rabies vaccination, long-acting penicillin injection, spay or neuter, and an ear tip, just as does our BIG FIX procedure. As you can imagine, the grant won't last forever but while it does, we'll be able to help even more cats!

More Winter Shelter Tips from Neighborhood Cats

Design Basics

There are many ways to build adequate shelter with all good designs sharing two qualities: strong insulation and minimal air space. The insulation is needed to trap the cats' body heat, effectively turning the cats into little radiators. Empty air space needs to be eliminated in order to keep the amount of space that needs to be heated to a minimum. A well insulated large dog house won't work because there will be too much air space for the cats to warm. Likewise, a tight-fitting space with thin, uninsulated walls won't work either because the cats' body heat will pass right through.

With these design factors in mind, it is better to build two smaller shelters which will each hold three or four cats than one large shelter to house six to eight felines. With the smaller shelters, even if only one or two cats go in, enough heat will be

generated. But with the larger shelter, if only a small number of the cats use it at the same time, there will be too much empty air space for them to heat.

Interior Insulation

Putting insulating materials inside the shelter will increase comfort and warmth for the cats. But they should only be used if the shelters can be periodically checked to see if the materials have gotten damp or too dirty and need to be replaced. If regular checkups are not possible, leave the interiors bare.

Only insulating materials which the cats can burrow into should be used. Items which the cats will only lie on top of, such as blankets, towels, or flat newspapers, should not be used. The items, when they are underneath the cat will draw body heat out and actually make the cat

colder.

Straw and hay are good insulating materials to use. Straw is better than hay because it can absorb more moisture and is less prone to mold or rot. Shredded newspaper will also work. One innovative idea is offered by Ellen Perry Berkeley in her book, "Maverick Cats." Loosely fill a cotton pillowcase with Styrofoam peanuts, the kind used to pack fragile items during shipping. Then put the stuffed pillowcase inside the shelter. The pillowcase will conform to the cat's body and wrap her in heat-capturing peanuts.

Simple Building Instructions

For detailed but simple instructions for a wonderful winter shelter, write us at the address on page 2 or e-mail us at contactus@alleycatadvocates.org and we'll send you one immediately!

(502)634-8777
contactus@alleycatadvocates.org

Alley Cat Advocates
#204
3020 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY 40205

We can make a difference.

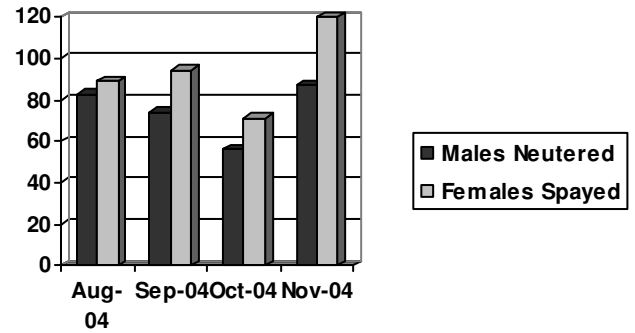
We are a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation.

We're on the web!
www.alleycatadvocates.org

Alley Cat Advocates
#204
3020 Bardstown Rd
Louisville, KY 40205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Charting Our Progress



Records are falling! After altering our 5000th cat overall in October, we had a record month in November, altering 207 unowned cats that month alone. Can you just imagine how surprised those 120 females will be this Spring when they DON'T come into heat? Thanks to all of you for your support! We couldn't have done it without you!