

Alley Cat Advocates



(502)634-8777 contactus@alleycatadvocates.org Volume 5, Issue 4
Summer 2005

Message from our Board Chair

And Now for Some Good News!

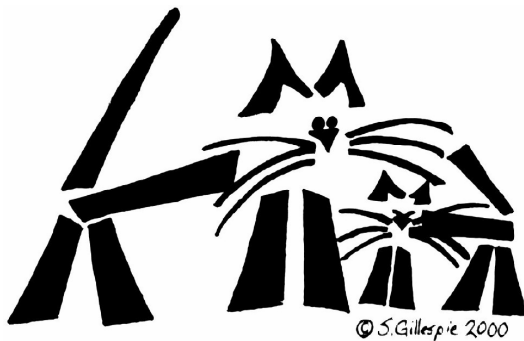
With the horrible disaster in the Gulf Region on the news each night and all of our concerns about both the people and their beloved animals — including those who cared for unowned and stray cats as many of us do — it is hard to be upbeat sometimes. But wonderful things are happening right around the corner! And you can help make a difference in each of them. Here's a short (but important) list:

- 1) With the hiring of a new director of Metro Animal Services, Dr. Gilles Meloche, our city has an opportunity to do some wonderful and creative things to reduce the number of cats and dogs killed at that and other facilities in our community. He and I have begun to meet and talk about our respective goals and I am excited about the possibilities. Please encourage your

city leaders to provide him the resources he needs to design and implement positive change. It is your money, after all!

- 2) Barring unforeseen challenges, Alley Cat Advocates will have spayed or neutered 7000 cats by the end of September 2005, an important date as it marks 5 years since our first month of surgeries. It is practically impossible for any of us to imagine the huge number of cats' lives that were saved by that work and how changed their lives were by that really simple act of spaying or neutering. Please continue to support Alley Cat Advocates by sharing your time and your money. With your help, we'll alter 10,000 more in the next 5 years. Now that would be good news!!

Karen Little



BIG FIX SCHEDULE

One weekend per month
by appointment. Call 502-
634-8777 for schedule and
details.

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

It isn't too early to start thinking about shelter for the winter. See our re-run of a really easy, affordable shelter on the next page.



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, Rusty Gailor, Teresa Gregory, Luanne Jensen, Carolyn Kacocha, Patricia Kennedy, Alexis Wallace, and Pam Williams for donating their veterinary services for our BIG FIXes and beyond Bluegrass.net for hosting our website Ron Reinstedler of Graphic Design of Louisville for printing services

Gifts in Honor of

Kristin Binkowski, by Forrest Kuhn
Butchie, Tee, and Chiqui, by Iris Sherman
Jennifer McComas, by Madelon Zady
Tortie Rose and Simon, by Barbara and Larry Robertson

Gifts in Memory of

Dorthy Danak's wonderful cat, *Billy (1984-2005)*, by Dario and Madeline Covi

Binks, beloved cat of Dages Paint fame, the *Bullitt County Animal Rescue* kitty, who died of FIP, *the friendly girl with the broken leg of Ms. Downey*, and *the pneumonia kitten of Ms. Goodman*, by Alley Cat Advocates volunteers

Funny Face, who lived on the Burns' farm, by Sue Smith and by Alley Cat Advocates volunteers

Joker, Jill Sherman's wonderful kitty, by an anonymous donor

Kittens we tried to save and kittens we didn't have a chance to save, by Alley Cat Advocates volunteers

Plasma Cell, by Drs. Ben and Shannon Espy

Laura Ploetner, by Janet Arnold and by Peggy C. Duvall

Three precious kittens, found under Mr. Grimes' house by Sue Smith

Rossi, cherished cat of Cheryl Sivak, by Ruth Devine

Rover, beloved pet and friend of Joe Vala, on behalf of his friends at UPS (and yes, Rover is a cat!)

Sugar, Pumpkin, and Jake, by Barbara and Larry Robertson

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

Email:
Contactus@alleycatadvocates.org

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www.alleycatadvocates.org

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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, nor 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 would like to serve ACA as a volunteer. Please contact me so that I may learn more about the ways I can help.
- I would like to support the Billie Emergency Fund, helping cats who, in addition to their spay or neuter, need further live-saving medical care, with the tax deductible donation noted below.
- 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 _____

"Frequently Asked Questions"

Alley Cat Advocates' volunteers respond to calls each week from people who have questions about how best to care for unowned cats. Below are some of the answers to some of the questions.

What is Trap-Neuter-Return?

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the process of trapping a cat (in a humane trap or cat carrier), neutering or spaying him or her, and returning the cat to where he lives. This is widely considered to be the most humane method of managing the overpopulation of unowned cats.

What is ear-tipping?

Ear-tipping involves cutting a small portion off of one ear of each spayed or neutered cat. Done while the cat is under anesthetic, ear-tipping is the international symbol indicating that an unowned cat has been spayed or neutered. By marking the cat in this way, should they ever be trapped again, they will not have to undergo surgery again only for the veterinarian to learn that they have already been altered. Instead, the trapper will know to just release the cat as she is already spayed. We ear-tip each cat that goes through our program.

What other types of care will the cat I've brought to you receive?

In addition to spaying or neutering and ear-tipping the cat, we vaccinate it for rabies and provide it with a long-acting antibiotic injection. We also apply the flea treatment to each cat going through our BIG FIX program. We clean out each cats' ears and treat other visible wounds. If there are other problems mentioned by the caregivers or noticed by the veterinarian, we address those issues as well. These problems range from upper respiratory infections (the common cold to you and me) to the need for leg amputations. Most cats that we help are thriving in their environments and have few health problems.

I've never trapped before. Can you help?

Yes, we can help. First, we have traps that you can borrow. Second, we can provide you with instruction. And, for caretakers who are elderly or disabled, we have a small group of volunteers who will come out and do the trapping. The more you can do, the more quickly we can help but we'll do everything if a caretaker is physically unable to do the work.

Why won't you try to find a home for this cat instead of returning it to my backyard?

Our goal is to improve the lives of as many cats as we can by spaying and neutering as many as we can as quickly and as

safely as possible. If we were to spend the time and money necessary to run a rescue and adoption program in addition to a TNR program, we would spay and neuter fewer as our resources (time, money, effort) focused toward TNR would be diminished. We are fortunate in this area to have a number of rescue and adoption groups doing their best to find homes for as many cats as possible. Even so, thousands and thousands are killed each year in our community because they are considered homeless. We encourage you to consider that the cat in your backyard has a home. You call it your backyard. She calls it home.

But this cat is tame. Surely you find homes for tame cats, don't you?

It is sad, isn't it, to find a cat that has clearly enjoyed having a person to call his own and is now without such a person. Our volunteers, collectively with decades of experience trapping cats, believe that approximately 80% of the cats we trap have previously been owned and/or would appreciate being an owned cat. Unfortunately, for the reasons stated above, we will help only by providing a means for this cat to get spayed and returned to where she was found. We encourage you to contact one or more of the wonderful rescue and adoption groups in the area for help finding her a home.

Easy, Inexpensive Shelter from Neighborhood Cats in NYC

Purchase a large Rubbermaid storage bin (a.k.a. storage tote) with a removable lid. It's important the brand is Rubbermaid or otherwise the plastic walls may crack in frigid temperatures. You'll also need an eight foot by two foot sheet of one-inch thick hard Styrofoam, a yardstick, a box cutter and hay, straw, or other insulating material. Then assemble as follows:

1. Cut a doorway six inches by six inches in one of the long sides of the bin towards the corner. Cut the opening so that the bottom of the doorway is several inches above the ground to prevent flooding.
2. Line the floor of the bin with a piece of Styrofoam, using the yardstick and box cutter to cut out the piece. You don't need an exact fit, but as close as you can.
3. In similar fashion, line each of the four interior walls of the bin with a piece of the Styrofoam. Again, perfect cuts are not necessary. Leave a gap of three inches between the top of these Styrofoam "wall pieces" and the upper lip of the bin.
4. Cut out a doorway in the Styrofoam interior wall where the doorway has been cut out already in the storage bin.
5. Stuff the bottom of the bin with straw or other insulating material (not blankets or towels!) to hold the Styrofoam wall pieces in place.
6. Cut out a Styrofoam "roof" to rest on top of the Styrofoam wall pieces.
7. Cover the bin with its lid.

This shelter is easy to clean by taking off the lid and the Styrofoam roof. It's also lightweight and may need to be weighed down. A flap over the doorway is optional.

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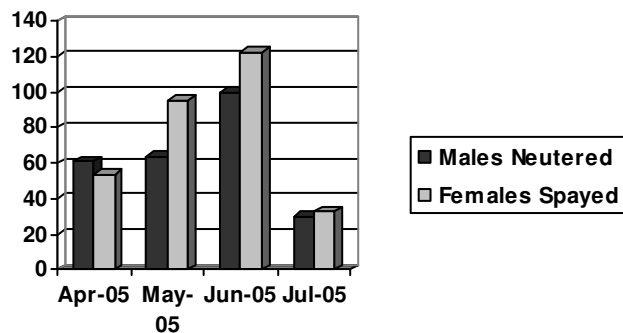
We are a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Charting Our Progress



We're right on target for a fantastic year! We took July off (if you believe that altering "only" 63 kitties is taking the month off) but are still averaging 174 cats altered each month. Our goal is 155 per month so we're really pleased! Thanks for all your help. There are still many, many cats needing to be spayed and neutered — we have over 1500 on our waiting list — so keep lending your support in all the ways you do!

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