



Humane News

News for the friends and supporters of Alley Cat Advocates

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MISSION

To provide for the humane treatment of unowned cats in our region by directing a Trap-Neuter-Return program in the safest, most efficient and cost effective way possible. Alley Cat Advocates strives to make our region the safest in the country for community cats!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Expanding Services, Increasing Lives Saved

After a whirlwind 20th anniversary year, we now celebrate our move into a new Community Cat Complex where all services are provided under one roof. Thank you to all who made this possible through your support! But more than celebrating our move, we celebrate Alley Cat Advocates' capabilities. With this new facility and your continued support, this regional center is designed to provide excellent care to those cats whose homes are loose and free outdoors, as well as support their people AND the people who really want to see their yards absent of cats. We really CAN do it all!

We now have the following right in our own building:

- **Spay/Neuter Clinic** – where we provide surgeries for caretakers' cats and for Louisville Metro Animal Services' community cats.
- **Medical Rehabilitation Space** – where we provide short-term care for community cats without the need to

transfer them to clinics outside our facility for that care.

- **Special Needs/Hospice Foster Space** – where we house the small number of community cats for whom return to outdoor life is inhumane. With a huge, enclosed "catio," this space is truly "the cat's meow."
- **Office Space** – replacing our outgrown offices with one adjacent to the other areas, allowing us to provide efficient and effective service to cats and people alike.

Thank you for your role in helping us improve the lives of stray cats all over metropolitan Louisville and the surrounding counties, as well as helping the people who care for them. In this newsletter are short articles about the impact your support is making on cats throughout our community and beyond.

For the cats,
 Karen Little
 Executive Director

Color Me Special



Injured and ill cats come through our program in small numbers. But as every cat lover can attest, each cat is special and all who need it deserve special care. Those in most critical need of assistance, the type of assistance that is ongoing, are fortunate to now have a place to live out their days with Alley Cat Advocates OR to be discovered and adopted by awesome people who gravitate toward helping those cats with special needs.

The Community Cat Complex has a free-roaming cat room called the “Color Me Special Suite” where our permanent fosters — those for whom living outdoors is no longer a humane option — can live out their lives, complete with a huge catio (a patio for cats)! And, even more awesome, is the easy access that cat-loving citizens, like you, who are interested in adopting special needs kitties, will have to meet and greet with any of the cats in the space. If interested, the cats can be adopted through our partner, Louisville Metro Animal Services.

How awesome is that? Join us in this lifesaving work.

Make a donation today at <https://alleycatadvocates.org/make-a-donation/>



Donating Without Noticing!

If you shop at Kroger, supporting Alley Cat Advocates is easy! Follow these simple instructions:

1. Visit www.kroger.com/communityrewards
2. Scroll down to “I’m a Customer”
3. Sign in to your account or create an account
4. Click on “Community Rewards” and select Alley Cat Advocates (QL501) and click “Save”

The Kroger Community Rewards program donates a percent of your purchase — at no cost to you — directly to Alley Cat Advocates. Did you know we received over \$17,000 last year from Kroger? Please sign up now! And tell your friends as well. You’ll make a difference without even noticing!



Caring for Injured and Ill Cats — Part of the Work We Do

From putting cats back together again, to bringing them back to an acceptable quality of life, to caring for them at the end of their lives (see *Color Me Special* article!), Alley Cat Advocates does it all. While our focus is on spay/neuter services for community cats — and the huge majority of cats we spay or neuter need nothing but that surgery — sometimes cats come to us with other medical concerns. And if that concern can be treated so that Mrs. or Mr. Kitty can return home happy and healthy, we treat it and home they go! And that is, of course, the goal of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)!

Providing dental services to cats in our care is a particular challenge. In 2019, we provided more than 40 cats with dental services ranging from a simple extraction to removing all their teeth due to the severity of the situation. Imagine the pain some of these cats were in! To relieve them of that pain makes the costs of these procedures, totaling well over \$25,000, worth it. But we have found a way to make more efficient use of our limited resources while still providing this service and that is through the new Community Cat Complex.

Thanks to donors like you, the Community Cat Complex comes complete with the dental equipment and the veterinarians needed to perform most dental procedures on-site. The cats will no longer need to wait for their dental appointment and will not have to endure another scary car ride to and from a private clinic. And our costs will be reduced, allowing us to serve more people and cats.

Because you know how unpleasant a trip to the dentist can be, remember the cats lucky enough, with YOUR support, to come our way and get the care they need.



New Space, New Volunteer Opportunities!



With the new space and expanded services, we have tons of opportunities for volunteers! See if any of these appeal to you. If so, reach out to us at personnel@alleycatadvocates.org and we'll get you in the loop! (No worries. Training is provided for each task!)

- **Cat check-in** – Making sure all kitties are tucked in for the night so are ready for surgery the next morning.
- **Cat wake up** – Helping cats wake up after their surgery by PETTING them! An awesome opportunity to pet cats who have never been petted before.
- **Feeding cats** – With empty bellies after surgery, all cats need to be fed to get them ready to go the next morning.
- **Cleaning surgical instruments** – Simple yet critical! Training provided!
- **Light office work** – The ever-present need to make sure supplies are in order and ready for the next day of surgery, mailings to prepare, etc.
- **Trapping** – With expert training, help the cats in the community being cared for by those who can't physically trap and/or transport. Not much is more rewarding than this one!
- **And more!**



Please reach out if helping people or helping cats is up your “alley.”
We're here to match you with the perfect task for you!

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THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER



16

Cats receiving extra medical care each week



20

Calls for assistance received each day of the week



145

Cats spayed or neutered each week



To learn more about how you can help stray cats in Kentuckiana, please visit alleycatadvocates.org

