

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

— SUMMER 2024 —



Happy Tails

STORIES OF LIVES CHANGED THROUGH **YOUR** HEARTFELT SUPPORT

We Can Do It the Humane Way, Thanks to You!

When Alley Cat Advocates was founded 25 years ago, we knew we had important work to do. But humanely managing community cat populations through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) addressed just part of the need. What did our community want us to do with the cats who came to us for spay and neuter surgeries and had additional — and sometimes urgent — medical needs?

What about a kitten with a painfully ruptured eye? A cat whose abscess that had turned into a gaping wound? What about one left suffering and vulnerable from a broken leg?

Through your gifts, you spoke loudly and clearly: Community cats deserve care!

We made a decision 25 years ago that we stand by today: Euthanizing treatable cats was not something we wanted to do. We decided that these conditions should be addressed.

And through your donations, you spoke loudly and clearly: you agreed! Community cats deserve care. Since then, whether a cat needs dental surgery, like Ms. Drools-a-Lot, or an amputation, like Billie (for whom the Billie Emergency Fund is named), or treatment for a severe wound, like Fuzzy Face, they

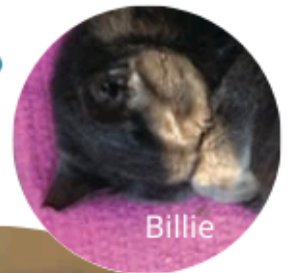
get it. For the few days that we have these cats, they get the gold standard in care.

As one of our generous supporters, you've demonstrated time and again that providing humane and compassionate care is the only way to go — even when it costs more.

Thank you so much for helping us make this community the best place to live for all cats. With your help, we are doing it our way — the humane way — every day, for the cats!



Fuzzy Face



Billie



Ms. Drools-a-Lot

Each of these cats returned home healthier and happier, thanks to you.



**ALSO
INSIDE!**

Remembering Sophie: See the softer side of our life-changing work.
A Loving Legacy: How you can help the cats “who don’t have a lap to sleep on.”

Thank You for Your Support, Day By Day and Year By Year



Dear Friends,

As you know, this year marks two-and-a-half decades of bringing help and humane solutions to our community's cats. We're so proud to celebrate, and so grateful to supporters like you for making it all possible.

But that doesn't stop us from focusing on the day-to-day work of changing and saving lives. Thanks to you, we continue to spay or neuter an average of 150 community cats from the metropolitan Louisville, Kentucky area and beyond each week.

We provide specialized medical care to dozens of those cats on a daily basis, never turning away any cat due to lack of resources. Each week, we respond to hundreds of calls, helping citizens with issues ranging from injured cats to orphaned kittens to unwanted cats in their yard.

Our reach is wide as we work with partner shelters in Jefferson and Bullitt counties, Kentucky as well as Clark County, Indiana and beyond.

We have so much to celebrate, but our work is not nished. Your gifts make sure it continues daily. So please, read on and enjoy the work you make possible, like Sophie's incredibly memorable story. We'll also share ways that you can help, today and in the future, support the community cats in our area.

We are so passionate about these cats, and we know you are too. I'm so appreciative of the community we've built, and all we do together to improve cats' lives every day.

This work cannot be done without you.



Onward for the cats,

Karen Little
Executive Director



Thank you for fueling our work in all parts of the community!

PAW TO THE METAL: We're Hitting the Streets


Have you seen us in your neighborhood?

We help community cat caretakers trap cats whenever we can. You may see us hitting the streets in one of our travel vans to deliver help where it's needed most.

If you need assistance, call us at

~~(502) 634-8777~~
(502) 634-8777.



In the meantime,
honk 
if you see

us
on the road!



REMEMBERING

Sophie

A Decade-Long Love Story That Starts With You!

Sophie and Janet shared a love story that was meant to be. Sophie, a beautiful tortoiseshell cat who lived outside, came into Janet's life in 2014. Janet contacted Alley Cat Advocates to have Sophie spayed. Below, Janet shares the rest of their story with you ...

After Sophie was spayed, we released her near our back deck. Then, she left for a long time. I thought she was gone forever.

Then one day there she was, feral as ever, but hungry. That's when our relationship began. It took months before she allowed me to pet her. The next step was to transition her feedings to my covered back deck.

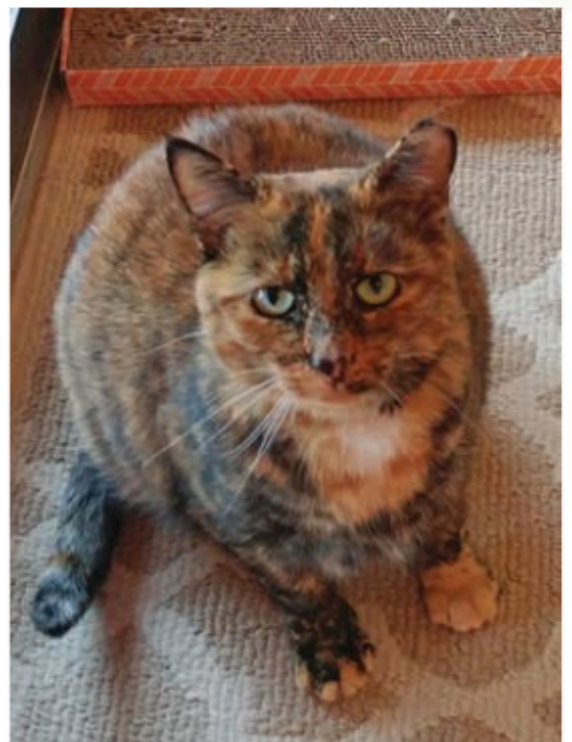
The rest is history. Sophie went on to become one of the sweetest, most loving, outdoor cats I've ever had. She always wore a flea collar and let me take her to the vet when needed. She let me brush her and rub her belly. Still, she let me know she would never live indoors.

So for the last decade, Sophie lived on my covered upper deck, right outside my kitchen door. She'd come inside and hang out, and would sit and stare at me until I'd pet her. She never took a bite of her breakfast until I patted her head. I think that was her way of saying "thank you."

Each night, she slept in a cushioned deck chair, or came inside during cold weather. But that deck was always her home. She loved her big yard and was a good hunter. On sunny days, she liked to lay in the sunshine.

Then one day, Sophie began to lose her voice. She allowed me to take her to the vet, who started her on antibiotics and steroids. But ultimately, he found that a large, inoperable tumor had engulfed her vocal cords. I had to make the decision to let her go. Sophie crossed the Rainbow Bridge on Valentine's Day, 2024. My heart is broken.

Rest easy, sweet Sophie. You may have left my life, but you will always be in my heart. You were such a wonderful gift and a blessing. Thank you for the love. You will always be my Valentine Alley Cat.



You helped Sophie live a longer, healthier life, and she'll be remembered forever.



Honor a Loved One (Two- or Four-Legged!)

In honor of our 25th Anniversary, you're invited to recognize a loved one with a commemorative brick.

With a single gift of \$1,000 or four \$250 donations spread throughout the year, you can have a beautiful 4" x 8" brick engraved with a message of your choosing. Just provide up to three lines of text. You might even honor a two- or four-legged friend or a family member.

Once inscribed with your text, the brick will be placed in the permanent landscaping at the entrance to the Community Cat Complex. Imagine the feet and paws that will pass alongside it as your memories live on!

You can make an impact that lives on to help cats.

Recently, a longtime friend of Alley Cat Advocates passed away. He left us a gift, along with a note we'll cherish forever.

He wrote, "A small orange cat walked into my life and heart a few years ago. I gave her warmth, safety and food. She gave me laughter and love. Please use this gift to take care of those cats who don't have a lap to sleep on."

Please consider helping cats by including Alley Cat Advocates in your estate planning. Visit alleycatadvocates.org/ways-to-give and scroll down to Planned Giving/Bequest for information and sample bequest language. You can also contact us at (502) 634-8777.

