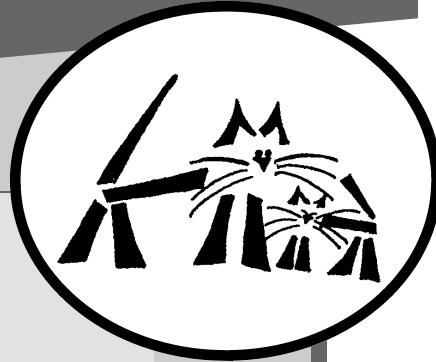


Alley Cat Advocates



*Sometimes you have to do
the best you can and
treasure every life saved ...
but sometimes you get a
chance to make
a bigger difference.*

Alley Cat Advocates
#204
3044 Bardstown Rd.
Louisville, KY 40205



All You've Ever Wanted to Know About Alley Cat Advocates...

Alley Cat Advocates, Inc. was incorporated in 1999 as a 501(c) 3, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide for the humane treatment of unowned cats in our community. In striving to accomplish our mission, our efforts will focus almost exclusively on directing a *Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)* program in the safest, most efficient, and cost-effective way possible.

Trap-Neuter-Return *(also referred to as Trap-Alter-Release)*

It is widely (although not unanimously) accepted within the humane movement that a TNR program is the most effective way to stabilize and reduce the unowned cat population. It is also the most humane method. The basic strategy (there are many variations of TNR) underlying all forms of TNR programs is to identify an unowned cat or colony of unowned cats, humanely trap the cat(s), spay/neuter them, and return them to their environment. The entire process takes from one to three days on average.

Alley Cat Advocates' strategy is to provide TNR assistance to the general public at several levels by having our volunteers:

- ✔ perform all the functions of the TNR program.
- ✔ provide training and lend traps to individuals who are able to perform the TNR work themselves.
- ✔ assist individuals with the entire process and share responsibilities.

How ACA can help

Alley Cat Advocates can assist individuals with TNR in many ways by providing:

- ✔ volunteers, as available, to perform TNR functions.
- ✔ Traps, crates and other supplies for individuals to borrow as necessary. ACA will also keep track of the whereabouts of this equipment.
- ✔ TNR training to interested individuals.
- ✔ "recovery space" for post-surgical cats.
- ✔ financial assistance to cover part or all of the cost of appropriate veterinary services.

Alley Cat Advocates' limited resources do not allow for the following activities.

If your situation is described below, please check the yellow pages under *Animal Shelters*, or *Humane Societies* for assistance. We cannot provide assistance:

1. if the person requesting our help will not allow the cat to be returned to its environment.
2. if the cat is an owned pet.
3. in helping find a cat a new home.



Alley Cat Advocates...Helping Those Who Can't Help Themselves

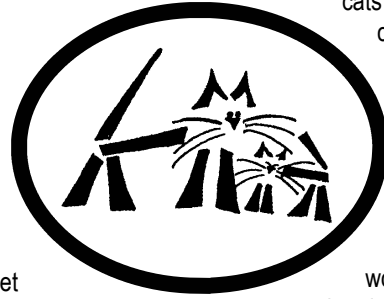
Why should we maintain feral colonies?

As sad as it may seem, the number of cats far exceed the number of homes available. In Jefferson County alone, every man, woman and child would have to own 45 cats in order to give every cat in the county a home. Nationally, only 32 percent of households own *any* cats. Clearly, at the current rate of reproduction, there will never be enough homes for all cats.

According to a study done by the National Pet Alliance, 75 percent of surplus cats come from breeding by stray cats. In a presentation to the AHA/CFA Feral Cat Conference in 1996, Karen Johnson of the National Pet Alliance stated that, "Owned cats are not the cause or the solution to the problem of too many cats entering shelters. Unowned cat reproduction must be addressed...by making it as easy as possible for citizens to round up and alter as many stray cats as possible."

The traditional method of controlling the stray population has been to trap and remove the animals, and then to either place them in homes or euthanize them. As we see from the numbers mentioned above, placing all homeless cats is not numerically possible; also many stray cats are not tame enough to make suitable pets.

What about trapping and euthanizing stray cats that can not be placed? Killing healthy animals is distasteful to most people. It is also not a solution. If the cats are removed without changing the environment (i.e. removing the food source and shelter), more cats



quickly replace the cats that were removed. It is also more expensive to continually trap and euthanize cats than to alter the cats and maintain a colony. In a study done by the San Francisco SPCA and the National Pet Alliance, they found that the cost to maintain a 1000 cat population using the trap/neuter/release method would cost \$17,306 initially and \$2,660 a year thereafter. To trap/remove/euthanize, the cost would be just under \$80,000 initially and then just over \$60,000 a year after that to keep the population under 1,000.

The trap/neuter/release method has been used in England since the 1960s with much success. In the United States, the first national organization to be devoted exclusively to the welfare and maintenance of stray cats was formed in 1990, although the method was being practiced on a local level well before then. One group, the Feral Cat Coalition, has made a major difference in the San Diego, CA area. In their first four and a half years, they altered more than 7,000 cats. During this same time period, the San Diego Department of Animal Control reported a decrease of 35 percent in stray cat intake, and a 40 percent reduction in euthanasia. There were no other factors that could be found to explain the drop.

We want to have the same effect on overpopulation in the Louisville area. With your help, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

Contact ACA in the following ways:

www.alleycatadvocates.org — website
 contactus@alleycatadvocates.org — e-mail
 (502) 634-8777
 #204 3020 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY 40205

Become a Volunteer with ACA

Now that you are familiar with ACA, we hope you will help us achieve our goals. Whether you can help out as your schedule permits or on a regular basis, we will always work to suit your needs. Listed below are the areas where we need your help. If you are interested, return the attached application or call us. We know that we will not be able to do what we want to do without you. In our organization, YOU make the difference!

- ☛ Responding to telephone messages
- ☛ Marketing/ Public Relations
- ☛ Fund Raising
- ☛ Organizing medical/office/printing supplies
- ☛ Assisting on surgery days
- ☛ Trapping
- ☛ Newsletter/donation solicitation letter
- ☛ Keeping cats during recovery
- ☛ Data processing
- ☛ Statistics/demographics
- ☛ Keeping up with crates for recovery stays
- ☛ Updating list of donors
- ☛ Continuing education/Public education
- ☛ Accounting/bill paying
- ☛ Responding to/distributing email/U.S. mail
- ☛ Other

What other ways can you help?

We are also in need of assistance in whittling away at our wish list. Here's what we need:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ☛ Cat food | ☛ Office equipment |
| ☛ Cat crates | ☛ Office supplies |
| ☛ Small litter pans | ☛ Cleaning supplies |
| ☛ Food/water bowls | ☛ Towels & sheets |
| | ☛ Humane traps |

If you are able to help us out through any of these please contact us. THANK YOU and MEOW!

I would like to support Alley Cat Advocates...

- I am interested in learning more about your organization. Please send me more information.
- I would like to serve ACA as a volunteer. Please contact me at your earliest convenience so that I may learn more about the ways I can help.
- I believe in the mission and I would like to make the following tax deductible donation:
- \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

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

We are always looking for assistance in a variety of different ways. If you are interested in supporting the mission of 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 the following:



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