



Alley Cat Rescue
The U.S. Cats Protection Association
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www.saveacat.org

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For Immediate Release

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ALLEY CAT RESCUE HOSTS INTERNATIONAL FREE FERAL CAT SPAY DAY!

Mt. Rainier, MD— On April 27, 2012, Alley Cat Rescue (ACR) will be hosting its Third Annual **Free Feral Cat Spay Day** to encourage the veterinary community and the public to end cat homelessness and to decrease shelters' euthanasia rates by practicing trap-neuter-return (TNR).

TNR is the humane management of feral cat colonies or community cats, where cats are caught in humane traps, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped and returned to the site. Friendly kittens and cats who can be socialized are placed into adoption programs to find homes (an immediate reduction in cat populations) while those who are truly "feral" are returned to their outdoor homes. A feral cat is simply a domestic cat who was born outside and has never lived with humans, or one who was a housecat, became lost, and went without human contact, becoming unsocialized to humans. Feral cats easily revert back to living on instincts and become less dependent on humans for survival. Feral simply means "wild" or "untamed."

Alley Cat Rescue President, Louise Holton, who was also the co-founder of Alley Cat Allies, is once again encouraging the veterinary community to participate on this important day by **offering at least two free spays or neuters of feral cats to the public**. In hard economic times countless people naively think a cat can "fend for himself," so they put him on the streets or drop him off in the country. Holton says, "Many cats cannot fend for themselves and will die, but others will go on to form or join feral cat colonies and breed unwanted feral kittens. TNR stops the breeding cycle more efficiently than catch-and-kill. In catch-and-kill, other strays will enter the vacated territory and start breeding all over again."

"Cat rescue organizations cannot tackle this problem alone; we need the support of the veterinary community. By establishing long-term relationships between vets and rescuers, together we can help each town's stray cat population." ACR wants to make it clear, this day is not only meant to help reduce feral cat numbers and assist colony caretakers, but to also help the veterinary community showcase their compassion for animals and bring them new clients.

Last year, over 300 veterinary clinics from 42 states joined ACR in the fight to prevent cat homelessness. Together, over 1,500 community cats were spayed or neutered. And thanks to our compassionate friends in South Africa and Canada, FFCSA has become an international campaign! Anyone interested in helping community cats, please join us on this very important day!!

For more information on Free Feral Cat Spay Day and how you can get involved, please visit www.saveacat.org or email Denise Hilton at dhilton@saveacat.org.

About Alley Cat Rescue

Alley Cat Rescue is a nonprofit organization dedicated to **the welfare of all cats: domestic, stray, feral, and wild**. We run a no-kill shelter and advocate TNR programs for feral cats. ACR has been awarded the Independent Charities of Americas "Best in America" Seal of Approval, and our newsletter has won many awards from the Cat Writers' Association. For more information, please visit our website www.saveacat.org.

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