Buckle up! To celebrate Global Cat Day®, we’re taking you on a trip around the world for a glimpse into how other countries are increasingly turning to non-lethal, humane approaches to save cats, including Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

In the United Kingdom, model-turned-animal activist Celia Hammond, an influential early TNR advocate, remains at the forefront of the movement. Her group, the Celia Hammond Animal Trust, helps some 2,000 cats per year with TNR and low-cost spay and neuter in London and southern England. The city of London also supports and educates citizens about TNR. “There used to be no concept of dealing with feral cats (also called community cats) in any other way than killing them,” says Hammond. “TNR is now widely accepted by most people and charities. We’ve seen such a welcome change in attitude.”

In Istanbul, Turkey, community cats can be found on street corners and in shop doorways. Hilary Sable, founder of Cihangir Cool for Cats, an Alley Cat Allies Feral Friends Network™ member, says the community cats thrive in their outdoor homes as more countries turn to TNR.

Global Cat Day on Oct. 16 was a great success! People around the world came together to show their compassion for all cats. It’s Alley Cat Allies’ 28th year of fighting tirelessly to save and improve cats’ lives and helping others who are dedicated to this mission. Let’s keep the momentum going!

Whether you’re on the frontlines of saving cats, raising your voice to press for cat-friendly policies, or pushing for non-lethal policies, we want to hear from you. Share your story with us about how you help cats. Go to globalcatday.org.
We’re so proud to celebrate our second annual Global Cat Day and grow our movement to protect cats worldwide. As with last year’s inaugural Global Cat Day, and National Feral Cat Day® for 16 years before that, people around the world showed their support for compassionate policies for cats.

In honor of this year’s Global Cat Day, we’re taking you on a trip around the world (see page 1) to show you how other countries are increasingly turning to non-lethal methods, including Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), to protect community cats. Then you can go to globalcatday.org and share your stories with us about how you help cats in your community.

As this Fall issue celebrates humane change for cats, read about the dedicated people who worked to create safe environments for cats on college campuses around the world (see page 3). Then be inspired by a foreign service officer who saved cats on a military camp in Egypt (see page 5).

Thank you, as always, for your compassion and steadfast support for cats around the world. You make this all happen, and we couldn’t do this work without you.

For the Cats,

Becky Robinson, President and Founder

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Our Mission:
To transform and develop communities to protect and improve the lives of cats.

Our Goals:
1) Reform public policies and institutions to serve the best interests of cats;
2) Expand and promote cat care;
3) Increase understanding of cats to change attitudes and eliminate misconceptions.
All over the world, community cats have made a collection of college campuses their home—and professors, students, and volunteers have responded by carrying out Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and caring for them.

TNR stabilizes campus cat populations, reduces university costs, improves the cats’ health, and mitigates the public’s concern about the cats, according to a nine-year study of the Campus Cats program at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Among the programs that used Alley Cat Allies’ resources:

Nonprofit Spay Panama helped set up a TNR program at the University of Panama after authorities began poisoning the cats two years ago. The group met with the university and community members and created a new policy: Students and professors would carry out TNR, and Spay Panama would do the spay and neuter surgeries. So far, more than 300 cats have gone through the program.

More than 400 cats lived at the University of the Western Cape, in Cape Town, South Africa, when lecturer Sharyn Spicer started TUFCAT, a member of the Alley Cat Allies Feral Friends Network, in 1996. Today about 100 cats remain.

In the United States, the University of West Florida Campus Cat Program started in 2017 after faculty member Karen Smith opposed a policy to remove the cats from campus. She and other volunteers care for the 22 cats there.

Arizona State University-Tempe has a stable, healthy population of about 60 campus cats since a group of caregivers banded together in 2002 to get the cats spayed, neutered, and vaccinated. Their success has changed the attitudes of university leaders. “They now help us and come to us when they have an issue,” says Karen Adams, a volunteer and university professor.
More than a year after Hurricane Harvey ravaged parts of Texas and Louisiana in August 2017, rescue groups are still helping animals displaced by the storm as communities rebuild—and Alley Cat Allies continues to support these efforts.

We teamed up with A Life to Live in coastal Baytown, Texas, which was hit hard by flooding, to carry out Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) following Harvey. Now we’re working with the group to strengthen a TNR program in the city.

Austin Pets Alive! ran a temporary shelter in Houston after the hurricane, caring for more than 5,000 animals in the months following Harvey. Many were adopted or transferred to organizations that partner with Austin Pets Alive!

Bones is now a spokescat for CATNIP Foundation, which rescued him during Harvey.

In Houston, some residents and community cat caregivers have not yet been able to return to their homes. “We’re seeing increases in community cat populations because the people who were feeding and doing TNR are sometimes no longer in the neighborhoods,” says Salise Shuttlesworth, founder and executive director at Friends for Life, which ran animal care at a “mega-shelter” for evacuees.

The group is increasing its TNR efforts with help from Alley Cat Allies’ online resources. More than 4,600 cats have been spayed or neutered free of charge since 2013.

The Louisiana-based CATNIP Foundation continues to educate the community about disaster preparedness. Many of the 200 cats it rescued following Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have been adopted.

Mary Heerwald, Austin Pets Alive! director of marketing and communications, says Hurricane Harvey showed how resilient animals can be in the face of disaster. “You see their will to live and you see they absolutely deserve a chance to live out their lives happily,” she says. “They need advocates.”

Some community cat caregivers were unable to return to their neighborhoods after Hurricane Harvey.
PROFILE IN COMPASSION: NADIA SBEIH

Living on a military camp in Egypt as part of an international peacekeeping force, Nadia Sbeih took on a second mission—to save animals at the camp. The commander wanted all the feral animals on the grounds—cats, dogs, and ferrets—removed and killed.

Sbeih, a foreign service officer, tried to educate him about Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). When that didn’t work, she sought homes for the animals. Many had become socialized to people at the camp, and some people had become attached to the animals. During her two years in Egypt, she carried out TNR on 27 cats at the camp. She also sent more than 25 cats and dogs to adoptive homes in the United States and Europe, sometimes partnering with international organizations to facilitate the U.S. soldiers in bringing them home.

Sbeih, now living in the Washington, D.C. area, recently became a member of Alley Cat Allies’ Feral Friends Network. “I know there are animals in the United States that need loving homes, but sometimes you meet an animal you get attached to, and you want to make its life better,” she says.

AROUND THE WORLD WITH TNR

(continued from page 1)

group practices TNR for nearly 50 cats a week and educates residents about its benefits.

“We put up posters in English and Turkish and facilitate school trips to teach kids the best ways to help,” she says. “We’re seeing [views] change about TNR and fewer kittens born.”

In the Philippines, Compassion and Responsibility for Animals (CARA) Welfare, another Feral Friends Network™ member, has carried out TNR on some 700 cats in 2018. CARA also works to establish TNR programs in every village it helps. “Overall, the awareness of TNR has grown by leaps and bounds,” says Veronica Lim, head of CARA’s TNR Program.

TNR is also growing in Panama, where Feral Friends Network member Spay Panama has sterilized more than 79,000 cats since 2001—half of those were community cats who went through their TNR program.

“More people have become aware of TNR as the humane and effective method for cat colonies,” says Patricia Chan, the founder and director. “Businesses and people see that cat colonies stabilize because of TNR.”
When Lynn Kennedy, Ph.D., decided to update her estate plans, she said she included Alley Cat Allies because we “make cats’ lives better.”

Lynn grew up surrounded by cats and dogs. During her busy career teaching English, and as chair of the Humanities and Developmental Studies Division at Darton State College (now called Albany State University West Campus in Georgia), she particularly valued cats’ companionship and independence.

Lynn is now retired, and she and her husband enjoy studying the group dynamics of her six indoor-outdoor cats, including Smokey Joe Wood and Light Horse Harry Lee.

“There is a definite sense of community among the cats, in spite of a little competition over who gets to sit in the humans’ laps,” she says.

Lynn encourages people who are making their estate plans to include provisions for animals in their care. By remembering Alley Cat Allies in her estate plans, Lynn will leave a legacy of compassion and protection for countless cats around the globe.

Visit alleycat.org/PlannedGiving for more information or call 866-309-6207.

HISSES AND PURRS

The stories of those who deserve to be celebrated...and scorned.

PURRS to Lorain, Ohio, for launching a new TNR program with help from experienced organizations in neighboring communities. The program is slated to begin in early 2019!

HISSES to Environment Southland for proposing to ban residents in Omaui, New Zealand, from owning any new cats (whether indoor or outdoor), once their cats die, in a misguided attempt to preserve native wildlife.

PURRS to commissioners in Kent County, Delaware, for approving a new TNR program to help 200 community cats in four different colonies.

HISSES to the City of Middletown, Ohio, for a new policy that makes caregivers subject to citations and fines for feeding community cats.

How well do you understand cats?

Alley Cat Allies has launched a fun, fact-filled quiz to test your knowledge!

Get started at alleycat.org/CatFacts1.