



Alley Cat Allies

Caregiving Information



DISASTER-PROOFING A COMMUNITY CAT COLONY

If you ever need to evacuate your home, you'll want to plan to take your pets along, but what about feral cats?


You can take steps to help a community cat colony survive a disaster. Here are a few things you can do that will give them a survival advantage:

- Be sure all the cats are neutered and eartipped, and get a good photo of each cat. Keep the photos with the documentation for your pets, so you'll have it all with you if you have to evacuate. This will help with identifying the cats, should they later be trapped by rescuers.
- If you live in a flood-prone area, put cat shelters and feeding stations on higher ground.
- If the cats commonly seek refuge under a shed or building, be sure that they have more than one escape route from beneath the building. Keep openings cat-size; larger openings are not necessary and let the elements and other animals in.
- If possible, place a laminated sign on the cat's house or feeding station letting rescuers know that this is a managed colony site and that you are the contact person (provide a cell phone number or other number where you can be reached).
- Any friendly cats in your colony that can be picked up may be able to be evacuated along with your pets, but for truly feral cats, their best chance of survival is using their own instincts and abilities to respond to changing circumstances. Like wildlife, feral cats will instinctively seek higher ground during floods.
- After imminent danger has passed, if you are not allowed into the area right away, reach out to local humane groups and inform them of the location of your colony. Ask them to provide water and food until you can return.
- Provide descriptions and copies of photos of the cats to any emergency animal shelters in your area in case any cats are trapped by rescuers. Visit local shelters in person if cats are missing when you return.



Community cats are resourceful and accounts of their survival in natural disasters are not uncommon. You can support them by following these steps.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BONNEY BROWN, HUMANE NETWORK



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ABOUT ALLEY CAT ALLIES

Alley Cat Allies is the only national nonprofit dedicated exclusively to the protection and humane treatment of all cats.

For over 25 years, Alley Cat Allies has led the movement to save cats' lives. With advocacy, education, and grassroots organizing, we champion innovative programs and policies that serve communities and save cats. Since our founding in 1990, we have popularized Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) as the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Before Alley Cat Allies, TNR was virtually unknown in America, and no local governments supported it. Today, a growing list of more than 500 municipalities has officially embraced TNR.

Alley Cat Allies has changed how all cats are treated—pet, stray, feral, and each cat in between. We advocate for a variety of progressive policies to protect cats, including the transformation of the American animal shelter system, which still routinely kills 70 percent of all cats who enter.

Thanks to our more than half a million supporters and countless advocates, Alley Cat Allies works in hundreds of communities each year. To learn more about how we save cats' lives, visit www.alleycat.org.