



**ALLEY CATS AND ANGELS**  
OF NORTH CAROLINA  
ADVOCATES FOR FORGOTTEN FELINES

## **Alley Cats and Angels 2009 Annual Report**



**ALLEY CATS AND ANGELS**  
***"ADVOCATES FOR FORGOTTEN FELINES"***  
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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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It is with great pleasure and tremendous pride that I write this letter as part of the first Annual Report of Alley Cats and Angels (AC&A). Our first full year as an organization has been nothing short of amazing.

Our achievements in 2009 are a reflection of the hard work that our core group of directors and volunteers have put forth to establish our reputation as a responsible and reliable force in the cat rescue community. We have developed solid working relationships with other animal rescue groups and shelters in the area, multiple veterinary facilities, and cat-loving volunteers. We have shared tears of joy and of sorrow with each other and our supporters, but most importantly, we have made a life-changing difference in the lives of hundreds of cats that otherwise would have very little hope.

We know our supporters have many choices when it comes to charitable contributions. AC&A is honored by your trust and carefully stewards your donations. Our life-saving work would not be possible without the compassion and continued generosity of people like you. Only together can we work to make a difference for the cats.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to the success of this organization. We are excited about our accomplishments in the past year and are looking forward to even bigger and better things in the year to come.

Sincerely,



Tia Hagnas  
Founder and President

## WHO WE ARE

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### Overview

AC&A is an all-volunteer, non-profit, 501(c)(3), foster-home based cat rescue organization located in the Triangle, NC area. All of AC&A's work is accomplished by dedicated volunteers whose common objective is to improve the problems of the existing homeless feline population by simultaneously working towards reducing their future numbers through the combination of feline sterilization and public education.

AC&A is dedicated to improving the lives of the stray, abandoned, and feral cats and the overall reduction of homeless cats in the Triangle. We promote compassionate and humane treatment of cats through:

- Rescuing and adopting out friendly homeless cats
- Educating the public on the importance of spaying and neutering
- Providing spay/neuter assistance through our Alter an Alley Cat program
- Providing feral cat education and assistance
- Placing high-risk feral/semi-feral cats in safe barn homes
- Being an advocate for the forgotten felines

## History

Tia Hagnas, the founder and current president of AC&A, is a TNR (trap, neuter, return) practitioner and independent cat rescuer of many years. In addition to TNRing feral cats, Tia would take in kittens from various feral colonies that could be tamed and vet them before adopting them out or finding a no-kill shelter that could take them. Word quickly spread and she was often approached by other caregivers to take in kittens and cats. Tia volunteered with a fantastic, local no-kill shelter for many years and learned a lot about rescue, but her heart always remained with the feral cats.

In Fall 2007, after taking over a feral colony in a shopping center soon to be torn down and trying to figure out what to do with all the cats because they would no longer have a safe environment, Tia did extensive research and contacted other rescue groups throughout the U.S. with an emphasis on feral cat relocation. It was then that she recognized the need for a rescue group in North Carolina that not only rescued, socialized, and adopted out kittens and friendly cats found in feral colonies, but the need for a rescue group with a Barn/Garden Cat Program as one of its main focuses. In response to this need, Tia founded Alley Cats and Angels in February 2008 with the support and assistance of Marie Brewer, a fellow feral cat advocate and rescuer. Together they run the rescue with the goal of being an "*advocate for forgotten felines*".

## Our Philosophy

Our philosophy is that all cats have the basic right to receive the love and security they deserve, regardless of their history, current medical problems, temperament, or age. We persevere in all cases and dedicate a lot of time and effort into socializing kittens from feral colonies—kittens that did not benefit from the best start in life. Our philosophy is further evidenced by our Barn/Garden Cat Program. The Barn/Garden Cat Program allows us to find safe alternative homes for cats that are unsuited for an indoor environment. AC&A is the only rescue group in North Carolina with a dedicated Barn/Garden Cat Program.

We open our homes and hearts to our rescued felines. We provide them with unconditional love and a second chance at a happy and long life—whether they are friendly cats in our adoption program or high risk feral cats awaiting a barn home—they all deserve gentle words, human kindness, and love.

## 2009 Board of Directors (Officers)

- President: Tia Hagnas
- Vice President: Marie Brewer
- Treasurer: Daryl Majkowski
- Secretary: Eric Moinet, CBM

## OUR PROGRAMS

### Adoption Program

AC&A's adoption program places cats and kittens into indoor-only homes. The cats in our adoption program come from various situations:

- *Feral colonies:* The vast majority of our cats/kittens have been rescued from the streets. Be it a feral litter of kittens needing to be socialized, or tame cats that have found their way to a feral colony, these "forgotten felines" will always be the rescue's charter.
- *Abandoned cats:* Many of the cats in our adoption program come to us as strays and cats cruelly abandoned by their owners.
- *Owner surrenders due to home foreclosure:* In the downturn economy, more and more people lost their homes and we were able to take in cats from several foreclosure situations.
- *Request to take cats from other rescue groups:* We were able to take in cats at the request of two larger rescue groups in the area who were heading up rescuing large numbers of cats from hoarding and bad living situations.
- *High-kill shelters:* Although we are typically at capacity taking in cats that would otherwise end up at a high-kill shelter, we do work to save adoptable cats from certain death by pulling them from high kill shelters as space is available in our foster homes.



As cats come into our adoption program, they receive needed medical attention and are placed in foster homes until they are adopted. The home-like environment allows for plenty of one-on-one care and socialization. Besides being good for the cat, our network of foster homes allows us to concentrate on care and adoption rather than shelter management and fundraising for facilities.

All cats available for adoption have received medical care before adoption including:

- Wellness check
- Spay or neuter surgery <sup>1</sup>
- FeLV and FIV testing
- FVRCP [distemper] and FeLV initial vaccination and booster
- Rabies vaccination
- Treated for intestinal parasites, ear mites, and fleas
- Microchipped with *Home Again* microchips, which includes shelter paid registration and enrollment in the Home Again recovery database

<sup>1</sup> AC&A has a 100% spay/neuter before adoption policy. We believe in early sterilization of kittens, as well as adult cats, adopted through our program so that no cat ever adopted from AC&A will contribute to the pet overpopulation problem.

### **Adoption Events**

In the first three months of 2009, as a new rescue group, we were challenged to find locations at which we could hold adoption events. However, at the close of 2009, Alley Cats and Angels was blessed with multiple adoption event locations and we hold adoption events at least three weekends each month, often with multiple events on the same day. We advertise our adoption events on our website, blog, Facebook page, and Craigslist. Current adoption event venues include:

- PetSmart, Knightdale, NC: Adoption events are held at this location a minimum of two weekends per month. In addition, we also have space in the adoption centers on a regular basis to better showcase the cats.
- Pet Supplies Plus, Raleigh, NC: one weekend per month
- Petco Brier Creek, Raleigh, NC: one weekend per month (more for special events such as National Adoption Weekends)
- Other locations as time allows: pet boutiques, new home communities, pet friendly apartment complexes
  - We thought "outside the box" as we worked to find our cats great homes and held adoption events at Main Street Square Apartments and a Martha Stewart KB Homes community (the KB Homes community event was an informational/adoption event).

We also work closely with two large rescue groups—Paw Prints Animal Rescue and Marley's Cat Tales—who invite us to join their special events and select adoption events. Most recently, we participated in the Animal Awareness Day and multi-group adoption event organized by Marley's Cat Tales.

### **Barn/Garden Cat Program**



Alley Cats and Angels places sterilized feral and semi-feral cats into barn/garden homes. Relocation of feral cats is a last resort for colonies and should only be done if the cats are in imminent danger. Therefore, the cats we take into our Barn/Garden Cat Program are feral and semi-feral cats that absolutely must be relocated from their current environment for various reasons.

Cats in this program are feral or semi-feral and are not adoptable as pets. These cats typically prefer the freedom of a "working life" in a rural area to a comfortable lap in suburbia. Through our Barn/Garden Cat Program, we are able to give these cats a second chance at a safe and happy life.

Only cats old enough to be sterilized are accepted into the program. All cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and ear-tipped before relocation.

Barn homes are found all around North Carolina. The barn owners agree to continue to care for the cats (food, water, shelter, and medical care) for the remainder of their lives. There is no charge to the barn owner to receive a cat. Cats have been placed in big barns, small barns, sheds with a cat door, riding and boarding stables, garages, and plant farms.

Cats are placed in cages at the barn site for an adjustment period of two weeks to one month. While caged, they become familiar with the sights, sounds, and smells of their new environment. AC&A loans the new barn cat owner all equipment necessary for the confinement period and provides extensive instructions on care while caged and after release.

Since our Barn/Garden Cat Program started in January 2008, we have placed over 140 cats into safe barn/garden homes.

### Feral Cat Education and Assistance

Alley Cats and Angels offers advice and assistance to individuals and other groups with respect to non-lethal feral cat management. We teach the basics of TNR and colony management for feral cats. We also assist local caregivers in several counties by loaning trapping and recovery equipment, providing information on low-cost spay/neuter programs, and sometimes provide short-term care for the recovery of feral cats after surgery. AC&A also offers advice and assistance to individuals and other groups with respect to non-lethal feral cat management.



### Alter an Alley Cat - Spay and Neuter Assistance

Through our *Alter an Alley Cat* program, Alley Cats and Angels sponsors spay/neuter surgeries for lower-income cat owners and feral cat caregivers. In 2009, we were able to sponsor and/or subsidize sterilization/vaccination of feral or stray cats on a regular basis. Helping end overpopulation through adoption, feline sterilization, and public education is one of our main objectives. As such, we strongly believe in sponsoring spay/neuter surgeries on a regular basis as part of our Alter an Alley Cat program. As we continue to grow, our Alter an Alley Cat program will continue to grow and the number of spay/neuters that we can sponsor each month will increase. The funds for the Alter an Alley Cat program come from generous donations and through our various fundraisers such as our fudge sales and Santa Claws photos. This program is currently on an *as funds are available* basis.

A local veterinarian has agreed to partner with us in this community-service venture. At this time, the availability of this assistance is promoted through Internet forums (blog, Facebook, Craigslist, etc.) and word of mouth. An online request for a spay/neuter assistance application for our website is currently in the works.

We expect to be able to expand our spay/neuter financial assistance effort in 2010 through grants and individual donations for this purpose.

### INTERNET RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATIONS

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Alley Cats and Angels has been able to grow, get the word out, and remain connected to our supporters through the internet. Our website is the door in which the general public, other organizations, volunteers, and potential supporters become involved with our mission.

Visitors to our website will find full information about our programs, the cats, and various ways they can help our mission. In addition, we maintain a blog, two Facebook pages (main page and a causes page), a MySpace page, and a Twitter account. We post our available cats for adoption on Petfinder.com, adoptapet.com, pets911.com, and Craigslist.

Links:

- Website: [www.alleycatsandangels.org](http://www.alleycatsandangels.org)
- Blog: [www.alleycatsandangels.blogspot.com](http://www.alleycatsandangels.blogspot.com)
- Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Alley-Cats-and-Angels-of-NC/132383006913>
- Facebook Causes Page: <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/152754/25511861?m=95ac708a>

In addition, we have a quarterly electronic newsletter, which is sent out to our volunteers, foster homes, adopters, donors, and others who have requested to be kept up to date on what we are doing and to learn new ways they may be able to assist and promote our organization. To sign up to receive our newsletter, please visit our website and enter your email address in the "Join Our Mailing List" box on the home page.

## 2009 – A YEAR IN ACTION

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2009 proved to be an extremely busy year for Alley Cats and Angels. The highlights of the year include the following:

- *501c3 Status:* AC&A received favorable determination from the IRS and was granted 501c3 status on January 29, 2009 – the status was retroactive to our founding date of February 21, 2008.
- *Intake and Rescue:* AC&A rescued 212 cats and kittens between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. This number includes both our adoption program and high-risk feral/semi-feral cats which required relocation through our Barn/Garden Cat Program:
  - *Adoptions:* 108 cats and kittens were adopted
  - *Barn/Garden cat placement:* 71 cats were placed into safe barn/garden homes
- *Alter an Alley Cat program:* We created the Alter an Alley Cat program to provide spay/neuter assistance to low-income cat owners and feral cat caregivers and were able to sponsor or subsidize spay/neuters on a regular basis.
- *Adoption Partners:* We became adoption partners with PetSmart, Petco, and Pet Supplies Plus.
- *Successful Fundraising:* Through our fudge sales and yard sales, we were able to raise enough money to buy two universal microchip scanners so that each cat can be scanned upon intake and each cat can be scanned upon adoption to verify microchips are still in place.
- *Fiscal Responsibility:* AC&A continues to manage expenses and revenues in a responsible, transparent manner.



## A FEW SUCCESS STORIES

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We have so many success stories that it was hard to choose just a few. Although the focus of this section is on our adoption program, it would not be complete without at least one barn cat success story.



**Wimbledon:** Wimbledon was one amazing kitten. Dumped in a neighborhood, Wimbledon and Wilson were very sick and most likely didn't have a chance at life without intervention. These two brothers had severe herpes virus and upper respiratory infections. Wimbledon's herpes virus was so bad when we first saw him, he could not open his left eye on his own, and it was a horrific sight once it was opened after several days of medication. His eye was perforated, he had a bacterial infection, and his eye needed to be removed. Wimbledon's eye was an urgent situation and we had to act fast to help him. Wimbledon came to us on 9/13/09, was seen by an animal eye specialist on 9/15, and had surgery on 9/18. His stitches were removed on 10/1 and he made a full recovery.



Through it all, Wimbledon's love didn't miss a beat – he was (and still is) the most loving and trusting boy. A

playful boy who wants nothing more than love and to give kitty kisses in return. While he was in the adoption center for a week, Wimbledon quickly won the hearts of everyone that worked at PetSmart. It wasn't unusual to see employees and shoppers alike fawning over him. Wimbledon was adopted by one of the managers of PetSmart. Her cat still isn't quite sure about Wimbledon, but he's become fast friends with her dog.

**Blizz:** Blizz is a little white kitten who was only about 6 weeks old when she was rescued by Alley Cats and Angels. One of our board members received a call about a tiny kitten hit by a car in a shopping center parking lot. Poor Blizz was a pitiful sight as she was all purple from bruising and her abdomen was swollen; she was immediately rushed to the emergency vet. It was unknown how bad any internal injuries were and it was "wait and see" for the first 48-72 hours. After the first few days, it was still *touch and go* as Blizz did not want to eat on her own and had to be syringe fed and given fluids. With medical care, and loving care and attention from her foster mom, Blizz made a full recovery. Because her first weeks were so hard, Blizz was quite shy and was eventually moved to a new foster home with more visitors. And one set of those visitors fell in love with Blizz and adopted her in September. Blizz has been renamed Saltine (aka Salty) and is doing great and fitting into the family wonderfully. Her new mom and dad post updates and pictures of her on their Facebook page all the time. And to make this story even better, the family now volunteers with Alley Cats and Angels. Augusta helps with data entry and helped out with our Santa photos in December. Her husband, Jason, played Santa Claws for the photo fundraiser. Augusta and Jason are now two-time adopters from Alley Cats and Angels (they previously adopted Persephone from us in February 2009). Blizz is pictured here on her daddy's lap getting some love and attention and looking very content.



**Gracie:** Gracie is a beautiful long-haired, white and black, 8-year old beauty who came to us as a victim of home foreclosure. Gracie was depressed – probably because she lost not only her home but also the only mom she had ever known. Other cats intimidated her, so we thought Gracie would do better in a foster home where she was the only cat and after searching, we found a great foster home with a person who had always owned dogs but never cats (co-worker of one of our board members). We took Gracie to her new foster home and provided her temporary mom (Cherri) with "cat instructions". Gracie blossomed in her foster home. When Cherri comes home at night, she calls Gracie's name and Gracie answers with a resounding "meow". Gracie rolls over so Cherri can rub her tummy and sits by her in the evenings. When she first arrived at Cherri's, Cherri was adamant that Gracie could go anywhere in the house except the bed, but now Gracie sleeps with Cherri, often with her head on the pillow! Gracie's temporary foster home turned out to be a permanent home as she was adopted by Cherri. Gracie is a big part of Cherri's life and she can't imagine life without her. In Cherri's words "*I thought I was doing Gracie a favor but instead she did me a favor by coming into my life. She is now a big part of my life and I am so thankful for her*". We love that a dog person is now a cat person too!

**The H's (Hannah, Haylie, Hilarie, and Hunter):** These four 8-week old kittens had just barely over one hour left before they would be euthanized at a rural high-kill shelter. All other cats/kittens had been pulled, but for some unfathomable reason, these four were left behind. We frantically called a good friend and foster (who lived almost an hour away from the shelter) to please race there and get them. Debbie drove with the purpose of beating the clock and saving those babies (the shelter would not hold even if a rescue was on their way to

get the cats). With only minutes to spare, those babies were saved. Debbie fostered the kittens and raised some of the sweetest babies and all four kittens were adopted quickly.

**Brie and Gunnar (Barn/Garden Cat Program):** We received the following email from one of our barn/garden cat owners (these were two extremely shy cats who were not content living indoors, we placed them in a barn/garden home at the request of one of the original founders of a now 20-year old local no-kill rescue): *Just got your newsletter and thought I would let you know how our 2 beauties are doing. They have settled in wonderfully. Both of them feign indifference if you try to call them over, or reach down to pet them - in fact they seem skittish and run away - but I guess that is to be expected. On the other hand, Brie is always waiting at the back door in the morning when we go out to feed the cats and chickens. Both cats love to romp and play around us when we are outside working, and are in fact quite sociable. And they have done a wonderful job keeping away the varmints that were destroying our garden. Yay! Sometimes we find little presents on the door step! They also both are comfortable with our lab, Evie, and usually say hello by rubbing noses with her! And you should see them with the guineas! There is one particular grey guinea who is a sort of loner and he has started playing with Brie. It's hilarious to watch them - Brie will chase the bird and then all of a sudden, the bird will turn around and start chasing Brie. And so it goes on. Back and forth. I can't tell you how much pleasure we have from these two special cats. And how grateful we are to you and Alley Cats and Angels for bringing them to us.*

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2009,<sup>2</sup> our funding was composed of adoption fees, individual and corporate donations, and fundraisers.

The adoption fees<sup>3</sup> often do not cover the complete cost of normal/routine medical expenses for each cat, which is why donations are so vital. Routine medical care is defined as wellness check; treatment for intestinal parasites, ear mites and fleas; FeLV/FIV testing; FVRCP+FeLV vaccinations; rabies vaccinations; spay/neuter surgery; and microchipping.

In addition, almost a dozen cats in the program needed extensive veterinary care and/or surgery for injuries and other major health issues.

### Revenue and Expenses

2009 Revenue	
Description	Amount
Adoption Fees	\$7,605.00
Direct donations: Individuals	\$10,148.00
Direct donations: Businesses	\$916.00
Charitable donations by our Corporate Adoption Partners (PetSmart, Petco)	\$778.00
Direct donations: Monthly cat sponsorship donations and Honorary/Memorial donations	\$1,097.00
Fundraising: aluminum can recycling, bake sale, yard sales, DVD sales, fudge sales, ornament sales, etc.	\$8,054.38
Fundraising: indirect public support (Food Lion Shop and Share, GoodSearch, iGive, etc.)	\$219.80
Miscellaneous (event donation jar, etc.)	\$517.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,335.83</b>

<sup>2</sup> AC&A's fiscal year is January 1 through December 31

<sup>3</sup> Adoption fees are \$95 for one cat, \$150 for a pair of cats, and \$50 for a special needs cat

2009 Expenses	
Description	Amount
Veterinarian Fees – adoption program	\$9,697.76
Veterinarian Fees – barn cat program	\$894.41
Medical Supplies (vaccines, prescription and non-prescription medications, microchips, etc.)	\$8,725.22
Alter an Alley Cat – Spay/Neuter Assistance	\$1,177.50
Website Hosting and Email/Telephone/Post Office Box	\$510.99
Adoption Program Supplies	\$1,384.91
Printing (adoption contracts, health records, brochures)	\$421.01
Payment Service Fees (PayPal, Network for Good) and Bank Fees	\$102.44
Fundraising Expenses (cost of fudge, flea market fees for DVD sales, etc.)	\$1,656.50
Administrative/General/Miscellaneous	\$587.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,158.22</b>

**Notes**

- *Adoption Program Supplies*
  - *Adoption program supplies for 2009 included additional expenses for items needed for multiple same-day adoption events including signage (metal A-frame signs for placing in front of stores at events and banners for tables inside and for display in the adoption center), folding tables for adoption events, table-top cages, adoption event bedding, food/water bowls for adoption center cages, and literature display racks. We were able to get almost half the necessary supplies donated, and Alley Cats and Angels purchased the remaining supplies.*
  - *Although foster homes typically provide food and litter for their fosters, Alley Cats and Angels does provide food and litter to a few foster homes that would otherwise be financially unable to foster.*
  - *In addition, in order to ensure a consistent diet for our cats, Alley Cats and Angels pays for food and litter while our cats stay in the PetSmart adoption centers.*
- *Administrative/General/Miscellaneous includes supplies for the barn cat program (relocation supplies such as food, litter, hanging food/water dishes, etc.), t-shirts for volunteers, and a folding tent for community events.*
- *Due to some medical expenses incurred late on New Year’s Eve (December 31, 2009) that were not debited from our bank account until after January 1, there is over \$1,000 in medical expenses incurred in 2009 that will actually be accounted for in the 2010 financials.*

**In-Kind Donations**

Non-cash donations included toys, cat food, cages, litter, folding tables for adoption events, signage, and items donated for our yard sales. In addition, when a video store in Chapel Hill closed, they donated thousands of videos to AC&A for us to sell as a fundraiser.

**LOOKING FORWARD - 2010**

- Continue expansion of our current volunteer base through further development of recruitment/training/retention programs; these programs will attract future volunteers to support animal care and adoptions and specialized committees for fundraising, education, and grant applications to increase community exposure
- Continue expansion of our foster home network – with more foster homes, we can save more cats



- Continue development of relationships with other local animal rescue organizations for the mutual benefit of the humane organizations and the cats needing safe and responsible rehoming
- Continue to expand our community presence through interactions with local community services and businesses to promote public education and to foster relationships to benefit the welfare of cats in our local and neighboring towns
- Apply for grants specifically targeted towards funding our Alter an Alley Cat spay/neuter assistance program
- Revamp/update website with additional organization information, an FAQ page, and additional forms including the waitlist/cat surrender application, trap loan request form, and spay/neuter assistance request form
- Organize, host, and sponsor a Spay Day to provide free spay/neuter to local cats in need (cats in low income families and feral cats)