

# 5 Ways to Advocate for Cats

Cats need your voice! Becoming an advocate for cats is one of the biggest, most impactful ways to save cats' lives. Get started with our quick and easy ways to advocate for cats.

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- 1.** Educate yourself and share the knowledge! Learn about the issues that face cats nationwide and in your own community.
- 2.** Bring fellow advocates together. Connect with other cat lovers to have a big impact in your community.
- 3.** Get the word out. Educate your community and speak out on behalf of cats.
- 4.** Educate your local officials. Officials need to hear from you about laws and policies that affect cats.
- 5.** Promote feline-friendly practices at your local shelter. You have the power to inspire change at your local shelter to save more cats—we're here to help!



Get all the how-to details at  
[www.alleycat.org/5WaysToAdvocate](http://www.alleycat.org/5WaysToAdvocate)

# Talk to me about CATS!

When you display our car magnet, you tell everyone that you're a source for information about cats. These five easy talking points will help you answer your community's questions.

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## 1. Community cats live outdoors—it's their home!

- They are also called feral cats, stray cats, and alley cats.
- Many aren't socialized and avoid people, so they are unadoptable.
- They thrive outdoors and can live as long as pet cats.
- Cats have lived outdoors for thousands of years. They're part of the ecosystem!

## 2. The best way to help community cats is with Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

- TNR is the process of humanely trapping, spaying/neutering, vaccinating, eartipping, and returning cats to their outdoor home.
- TNR is the only humane and effective approach to controlling a community cat population.
- Eartips are the universal symbol of a neutered and vaccinated cat.

## 3. Don't take community cats to animal shelters.

- 70% of all cats taken to shelters are killed. That number is nearly 100% for community cats.
- TNR is the best approach because it allows cats to live in their outdoor home and keeps them out of shelters. And, when the colony is neutered, it effectively controls their population.
- Talk to your local shelter and encourage them to implement a TNR program.

## 4. Community cats can be great neighbors.

- Community cat caregivers provide food and shelter to community cats, which means they won't roam for food.
- TNR stops unwanted behaviors in cats. Behaviors associated with mating, like yowling and fighting, stop.
- There are many humane deterrents to keep cats away from certain areas. Visit [alleycat.org/Deterrents](http://alleycat.org/Deterrents) to learn more.

## 5. Alley Cat Allies works to protect all cats in *all* communities.

- Many communities have policies that aren't humane, like catching and killing community cats. There may even be some in YOUR community.
- Alley Cat Allies advocates for humane policies like TNR to stop the killing. We work to change shelter policies that are deadly for cats and to change the shelter system that results in cats being needlessly killed.
- Alley Cat Allies educates communities to combat cruelty and misinformation that gets cats killed.



[www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org)