

About The Author

Alley Cat Rescue



LOUISE HOLTON helped pioneer Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) in the U.S., where she has founded two international cat advocacy organizations. Louise first co-founded Alley Cat Allies in 1990, and then moved on in 1997 to create Alley Cat Rescue (ACR), of which she is currently the president.

Louise worked in her home country of South Africa in the mid-1970s with the Johannesburg SPCA on TNR programs and brought to the U.S. her contacts in the United Kingdom to help set up TNR programs here. She has worked with biologist and world-famous author Roger Tabor, veterinarian and TNR pioneer Jenny Remfry, the Universities Federation of Animal Welfare (U.K.), as well as the British Cat Action Trust.

Louise started ACR with a trap-neuter-return program for feral cats and adoption program for friendly cats. Programs now also include:

- advocacy for non-lethal cat population management
- the annual Global Feral Fix Challenge, a campaign that encourages veterinarians to provide as many free or low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for community cats as possible throughout the year
- TNR and other cat-related education and resources for the public
- sponsorship of TNR projects across the U.S.
- the African Wildcat Conservation Action Plan in South Africa, which protects and preserves the African wildcat (AWC) species through TNR of outdoor domestic cats who live near wildcat territories

Over the past four decades, she has helped sterilize thousands of cats, presented at numerous conferences and symposiums, and won several awards for her written work, including a Muse Medallion from the Cat Writers' Association for her informational booklet, "Feral Cat Colony Management and Control: Facts and Myths about Feral Cats" and her series of articles published in *The Animals' Voice*. Louise has been presented with the National Humane Achievement Award from the Humane Coalition of Massachusetts and the Animal Kingdom Kindred Spirit Award and Animal Champion Pin from the Doris Day Animal Foundation.

She lives in Maryland with some of the unadoptable cats ACR has rescued over the years, and also manages some outdoor colonies. Louise shares her home with a Jack Russell mix, Bandit, rescued from Mexico when ACR ran their MASH-style clinic there. She rescued Lily, who passed away a couple of years ago, along with Bandit.