

How Can I Contribute to National Feral Cat Day?

Becky Robinson, founder of Alley Cat Allies, discusses how people can take action to help these outdoor felines.

By Becky Robinson

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Q: What is National Feral Cat Day and how can I get involved to help?

A: National Feral Cat Day, to be held Thursday, Oct. 16, is the annual kickoff of Alley Cat Allies' national education campaign. Many advocates and supporters take this opportunity to distribute educational products or host local events – workshops, fundraisers and special spay and neuter clinic days – for stray and feral cats.

You can help spread the message about feral cats, why they need a different kind of care, and how communities can band together to stop the killing of cats in their local animal control pounds and shelters – on National Feral Cat Day and all year round. Here are a few ideas: Ask a local official or school official to sign a National Feral Cat Day Proclamation. Put together a library display, host a feral cat day and display books about humane treatment of cats. Contact us for sample advertisements to place in local newspapers or publications. Research your local shelter's programs and policies for feral cats and either highlight their good programs or denounce their bad programs by writing an editorial for the local paper. Distribute Alley Cat Allies truth cards and brochures at public events, or in public places such as shopping malls or fairs. Host a special spay and neuter clinic for feral cats; make it a kickoff event to promote a monthly clinic. Have a bake sale (with cat-shaped baked goods for humans and catnip treats for cats) and donate the profits to Alley Cat Allies. Take the "I'm an Alley Cat Ally Photo Pledge." It's easy – submit a photo online of you and your pets holding the signed pledge to Alley Cat Allies. Visit our website to download the pledge sign. Ask your friends and family to do it, too! Visit our website to order our brochures, posters, truth cards and educational materials. Join our street team and hang our awareness posters around your neighborhood, in stores and meeting places, or at your school or office.

Be sure to take photos of your events and let me know how you took a stand for cats on National Feral Cat Day 2008.