

Hi Diane,

I guess I am a "success story." I began working on a colony 10 years ago when we moved to Craig County. Even though we have a good sized coyote population, the cats were out-breeding the coyote meal plan, and there was a lot of inbreeding going on. After over 40 spays/neuters (most of which occurred out of pocket before Alley Cats began), I am now at the point that I've had no kittens born in the past 2 years! What a relief not to be catching and taming kittens all summer long!

I have about 20 "permanent residents" in the colony now, and they are well fed, healthy cats. Can't touch most of them, but I'm not sure how I'd have time to pet 20 cats every day anyway! When an occasional interloper stops by for a visit, he doesn't have long before he's in a cage and on the way to the vet! I'm determined to keep this population in line until one day it goes away with natural deaths from old age. Even the coyotes don't bother them very much when they are healthy and not bogged down with kittens.

Alley Cats is a real blessing to cats and cat lovers. I was fortunate that over time I could afford to pay for the surgeries for all of "my" cats (and stray dogs, too), but I know that everyone cannot do so. Having Alley Cats there to refer other colony managers to is such a wonderful option. We need to be sure this group keeps going!! We may never end cat overpopulation in the Roanoke area, but Alley Cats is having a positive affect, and my brood is proof positive. Thank you ALL for what you do every month.

By Ruth Hendricks