

Shelter Ally Project: Community Cats Mentorship

We believe in building sustainable programs that decrease animal suffering. Our community cats-centered mentorship aims to help cats through effective policies and programs that will, over time, reduce the number of cats in the community. This mentorship runs twelve months and includes up to \$15,000 in grant funding.



Program and policy training

Take cat management up a notch by developing comprehensive programming for community cats both in and out of the shelter with the help of the Humane Society of the United States and other experts in the field.

A focus on tactical trap-neuter-release, practical pathway planning for cats entering the shelter and coordination of programs across your organization provides a holistic approach to managing dynamic populations of cats in your community. Together we'll review relevant local laws, standard operating procedures and other policies, then develop a roadmap for navigating obstacles, clearing bottlenecks and changing policies.



Field research

Animal shelters and rescues often rely on secondary metrics—such as cat intake or euthanasia—to determine the impact of programming for community cats, rather than on data directly related to the number of cats living outdoors in the community. Utilizing the [DC Cat Count](#) as a model, we will explore how your organization can use field research to learn more about local community cat populations and determine the impacts of your programs. Then we'll develop a plan and implement an initial cat count in a target area.

Community engagement

Community is a key component in community cat programs. From broad communications to one-on-one conversations, how we speak to the community about cats can be the difference between a successful program and a contentious one. We will dig into opportunities to raise awareness, garner support and collect information to help provide the best possible outcome for cats in need of assistance.

Near the end of the mentorship, we will co-host a town hall and training event for staff and the community. These in-person conversations will set the bar for best practices for cat caregivers, trappers and other volunteers, help build a network of cat advocates and provide a platform for the mentee shelter to gain support for its community cat programs.



To find out more information or to apply for a Shelter Ally Project mentorship visit humanepro.org/shelter-ally-project

