**WHO ARE WE:**

Community Cat Angels (CCA) is a registered 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization whose sole focus is addressing the crisis of an ever-increasing community cat population in the Las Vegas valley. Our organization’s niche is to care for the injured, sick, neglected and abandoned cats and kittens that are suffering and need help. CCA is comprised solely of volunteers. We receive no government funding and rely on the kindness and generosity of donors to support our programs.

**WHAT ARE COMMUNITY CATS?**

A *Community* Cat is a cat that does not have an owner. It may be a previously owned and domesticated stray cat that was lost or abandoned. It may be a cat born on the streets, unsocialized with little to no previous human interaction. It could also be an unsocialized cat belonging to a cat colony (a population of cats living together with a common food source). A colony may be managed by a human caretaker that provides this food source. Unfortunately, many community cats are fending for themselves and are free roaming on the streets of Las Vegas being subjected to illness, disease and injury. This is where Community Cat Angels has chosen to make a difference. Our dedicated team of volunteers have chosen to be the final chance these sick and injured cats have for a new future. Our goal is to relieve them from pain and suffering and to find a place for them to be loved once again.

**OUR VISION:**

A Las Vegas community where cats’ lives matter and all are treated humanely. Where all domesticated cats are safely residing in a loving home and are no longer at risk of disease and death on the streets of Las Vegas.

**OUR MISSION:**

Rescue, Rehabilitate, Re-Home and Repeat

**OUR FOCUS:**

* To rehabilitate socialized community cats so they can once again be rehomed permanently as healthy, well-adjusted pets.
* To provide emergency medical treatment, life-saving surgery or when necessary, the last act of kindness (euthanasia) to those cats who have been severely traumatized, disabled, injured or have terminal illness and are suffering.
* To collaborate with other animal welfare organizations in securing adoptions into forever homes for our rehabilitated community cats and kittens.
* To Trap, Spay/Neuter, Return (TNR) unsocialized cats preventing additional overpopulation and suffering of cats in the Vegas valley.

**OUR ROOTS:**

Community Cat Angels was formed during the height of the Covid pandemic. We actively launched our organization in 2020. This past year 2023, brought much growth as well as tremendous challenges that all animal welfare organizations were feeling not only in Las Vegas but nationwide. Rescue organizations around the U.S. and Las Vegas were bursting at the seams. The rising cost of living, higher pet care costs and housing concerns all contributed to people needing to relinquish their pets. At the same time, our local municipal city intake shelter was in crisis.

Starting a rescue during Covid along with the ongoing national and local challenges in animal sheltering and rescue made for a difficult time to start and continue to build a cat rescue. Thanks to our supporters, donors and our incredible volunteers Community Cat Angels is moving forward and persevering despite these challenges with our life-saving mission.

**COMMUNITY CAT ANGELS AND ANIMAL ADVOCACY**

2023 was indeed a year in crisis for our city’s animals. People were feeling the economic challenges, while at the same time veterinary costs heavily outpaced inflation making it more difficult for people to care for their pets. Along with inflation, supply chain disruptions and workforce issues we saw a jump in the cost of cat food and supplies. Due to these circumstances, people were having to make the tough decision to surrender their animals as they could no longer care for them.

Our municipal city shelter was forced to either take in more animals in overcrowded, noisy environments increasing the chance for disease and infections, euthanizing more animals due to lack of space or turning the animals away and making appointments for animal intake two to three months out. None of these options were ideal and the trickle-down effect of over crowded shelters and local resources stretched to the limit was an increase in animal abandonment.

Smaller animal rescues like Community Cat Angels tried to carry this burden leading to compassion fatigue, being over budget at times and the heartache of not being able to help the increasing number of cats left behind by their previous owners with no shelter, no food or fresh water. Next Door and Ring Apps, social media sites with dedicated lost and found pages were flooded with animals on the streets that needed help.

Community Cat Angels realized that change needed to happen and we could be an advocate, a voice for these abandoned animals. CCA and their volunteers began participating in local City Council Meetings. Volunteers attended round table discussions with city leaders Tim Hacker, Deputy City manager; Chief Jason Potts, Director of Public Safety; Rudy Tovar, Department of Public Safety Manager of Animal Protective Services and Victoria Seaman, City Councilwoman Ward Two. The goal was to discuss some of the challenges with the current environment of animal rescue in Las Vegas and hopefully provide solutions.

 Community Cat Angels hosted along with a generous donor the “Give Me Shelter Event” to raise awareness of the lack of community resources we have in our city as long as our City Municipal Shelter was in Crisis. Special guest speakers were Bryce Henderson of No- Kill Las Vegas, Nancie Anastopoulos, Founder of CCA and Victoria Seaman City Councilwoman Ward Two. Rescues working together in the valley became key and thanks to the efforts of so many dedicated organizations, change in a positive direction is happening. Community Cat Angels remains committed to be a resource for change as we still have a mountain to climb.

**FUNDRAISING – RAISING THE BAR**

Our fundraising team worked tirelessly in a very difficult climate where nonprofit donations were reported to be down by 20-30%. Donor retention rates were at a dismal 40% statistically. Community Cat Angels loves and respects their donors and we strive to let them know we are partners working together in a common goal to help these community cats that have very few resources in our valley. We may be the man-power and the engine but our donors are the fuel that supports our intake and foster programs.

Our life saving work would not exist without our supporters and our mutual compassion for these animals in need of help. Some of our fundraising programs this year were a

Spay-Ghetti & No Balls Dinner to raise the needed money for our spay and neuter efforts. We did a garage sale, collected sneakers, collaborated with Scentsy representatives and a Kendra Scott Store public relations and educational event.

Because of generous donations of in-kind items, we were able to do several raffles this year including Vegas Golden Nights Game 5 of the playoff’s tickets, a VGK team autographed stick and a puck signed by Jack Eichel, Pink Summer Carnival Tickets, and a Casablanca Spa & Golf retreat.

We participated in a Mother’s Day auction as well as our annual fall auction. Thanks again to our generous donors who supplied us with auction gifts such as Fred Segal Merchandise, a Louie Vuitton bag, Oscars Steak House, Stay-Cations at local Hotels, spa gift certificates, grocery gift cards, and Christmas items just to name a few of the amazing items we were able to auction in order to raise the much-needed funds to continue to vet the sick and injured animals. We continue to sell merchandise on Poshmark, participate in Smiths Inspiring donations program, as well as ongoing donation requests to help fund some of our sickest cats and their medical expenses like Tony the Tiger, Celestial, Hunter, Champs, and Charlie. These cats and hundreds of others were tragic cases of suffering that CCA could not turn their backs on. Our $5.00 Friday, Thankful Thursday, Give What you can Wednesday and of course Giving Tuesday were also successful campaigns. Each year we have increased our fundraising and donation efforts and 2023 was no different. Thanks to our incredible team of volunteers and supporters, CCA was able to rescue and treat hundreds of cats and kittens.

 **TRAP SPAY/NEUTER RETURN CHALLENGES**

Las Vegas is estimated to have over 200,000 free-roaming cats in our Valley. As an all-volunteer rescue like Community Cat Angels, we have found some challenges and barriers to doing a substantially active TNR program. When we first started operations, our goal was to do a significant amount of TNR along with our niche of rescuing and rehabilitating the sick and injured community cats.

A local resource that was used by independent trappers and rescue groups that were putting in the manpower, supplies and hours to trap these unneutered and unspayed cats was The Animal Foundation. In 2015, The Animal Foundation had funding to do spay & neuter of community cats. They provided this service free of charge, 7 days a week and on average Trapped/Neutered/Returned (TNR) approximately 7,000 cats annually. In 2017, the city donated $12 million dollars to modernize their veterinarian clinic according to reports from the Las Vegas City Council. In 2020, $32 million was raised for The Animal Foundation with financing provided by Nevada State Bank for the growth of lifesaving programs, education, resources and to deliver medical and behavioral help to animals. As of 2020, their TNR program numbers collapsed. In 2020, The Animal Foundation accomplished Trap/Neuter Return of 2,197 cats. In 2021, 1,813 cats and in 2022, 2,414 cats. This previous community resource at The Animal Foundation was no longer available in the same capacity as it was previously to the public, independent trappers and small rescues like CCA that was dedicated to grass roots efforts to reduce the cat overpopulation and suffering.

Small rescues like CCA are now using Heaven Can Wait Community Cat Clinic (HCW)which charges $60.00 per animal. Taking a feral cat to a regular veterinarian for these services is cost prohibitive to a rescue that is dependent solely on donations. Heaven Can Wait operates Monday-Thursday with a drop-off time between 9:30-10:30am. That being said, we consist of all volunteers working full time jobs. In order to utilize this community service, a volunteer has to take the day off from their employment and plan a trapping job on a worknight. Of course, once taking the day off there is no guarantee the cat will go into the trap that evening. Taking the time off work for our volunteers has created a barrier to utilize this resource to its fullest capacity. Our numbers support these barriers and demonstrate the need for additional TNR resources. In 2021, CCA trapped 120 cats. Today that would cost us $7,200.00 with the reduced rates at Heaven Can Wait. In 2022, we trapped 46 cats and in 2023, we trapped 20. Due to the challenges of not enough resources, our numbers of TNR continue to decline. If additional resources become more available, CCA will actively start a more aggressive TNR program. As the saying goes…. we will never adopt our way out of this crisis. CCA appreciates the dedication of the HCW Community Cat Clinic and Community Cat Coalition of Clark County (C5) and their organizations as they are towing the line. Unfortunately, we are losing the battle and the animals are paying the price.

**LIFE SAVING VETERNARIAN CARE**

CCA takes in the sickest and most injured cats that require medical care, as well as rehabilitation in foster homes. Due to our respective niche, we have tremendous veterinarian expenses. Only with the help of our amazing supporters and donors can this work continue. Our numbers of cats saved are only limited by the financial assistance from our community.

Community Cat Angels and their team of volunteers will continue to work hard and demonstrate the value we provide to our community and the stray cats that need us. We have an unrelenting passion to make the life of every cat matter.

Sincerely,

Nancie Anastopoulos,

President