ALLEGAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER STATEMENT REGARDING STRAY CATS/KITTENS

The Allegan County Animal Shelter has been in existence for several years. During that time there have been many changes in relation to the amount of staff, funding and policies. Currently, the Allegan County Animal Shelter is managed by Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance which adopts the animals to families and individuals who are able to and want to adopt them. Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance fields approximately 20 calls per day regarding stray cats/kittens in Allegan County which has enabled the Allegan County Sheriff’s Office and Allegan County Animal Control to put their time and effort toward the enforcement of the Michigan Dog Law and the Leash Law.

The existing policy regarding stray cats/kittens in use by the Allegan County Animal Shelter, Allegan County Sheriff’s Office, Allegan County Animal Control, Allegan County Health Department and Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance is as follows:

1. Allegan County Animal Control will respond immediately to instances of animal abuse or neglect and animal bites.
2. Allegan County Animal Control will not pick up stray cats/kittens.
3. Calls into the Allegan County Animal Shelter regarding stray cats/kittens will be told the following:
   a. If there is not space available; the cats/kittens will be placed on a waiting list until there is space available. This may take 2 – 3 weeks.
   b. They should not be dropped off at any farm or vacant piece of property.
   c. If they are dropped off at the Allegan County Animal Shelter the person will be asked to surrender the animal and pay a nominal fee to cover the cost of housing and food.
   d. All cats/kittens are given an examination, appropriate vaccinations, and are spayed/neutered to make sure they are healthy before placing them in the population.

In the future, Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance is working in cooperation with the Allegan County Animal Shelter toward securing grants and funding which offer a more permanent solution to the problem of stray cats/kittens, which is an epidemic all across the country.