

## **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.