



## *THE AdvoCATS*

### *Questions and Answers*

- *What is the AdvoCATS?*

It is an organization comprised of faculty, staff, students and members of the community who have love and compassion for animals and specifically our cat population. We advocate for the cat's care, health, well-being, protection and understanding. We want to bring awareness about cats by encouraging dialogue, education and involvement.

- *How was the AdvoCATS created?*

With the recommendation and support of a former University administrator, who was an animal lover, the "Campus Cat Management and Care Committee" was created in January 2016. The committee was to "manage" the campus cat population and share information and updates on activities involving the cats. Some of the members of the committee branched out establishing a separate "active" group who actually provides the loving care, feeding, financial support and advocacy for our campus's feline family, who are now known as the *AdvoCATS*.

- *What was the main motivation to coordinate the team AdvoCATS?*

It is heartfelt and ethically, the right thing to do - we are their voice. Animals gravitate to our campus for food, shelter and affection because of abandonment, neglect, abuse or other circumstances through no fault of their own, they are innocent animals at the mercy of humans. We provide daily feedings, monitor their health, well-being and provide veterinary care when needed. We provide shelters, warm/cozy bedding and ensure their protection from harmful situations. We are alert to any new cat sightings, and we coordinate the TNR (Trap, Neuter/Spay, Release) system, which includes vaccinations, microchipping, & ear-tipping to identify completion of sterilization and flea treatment.

- *How does the team help the cats on campus?*

We strive to raise awareness, promote respect, compassion and tend to their daily needs. We coordinate volunteers for daily feedings of healthy food (dry and canned), fresh water in a clean and safe environment. We check the cats for any obvious injuries or health issues and ensure vet intervention as needed. Shelters are provided, including warm comfortable, cozy bedding. We continuously advocate for their protection.

- *About how many cats live on campus and what are their names?*

14-20 (at the most)

Their names are: Sydnie, Tony, Daisy, Ray, Bonnie, Candy (male), Dee Dee, Pear (male), Natsu (female), Riley, Gracie, Bailey (male), Julius, Pekoe/DC “dorm cat” (male), Charlie (female); the oldest kitty on campus is Gracie, about 13 years old and right behind her is Daisy, about 12 years old. Our newest addition is Lilly, 8 months old.

- *Why do we want to share information and efforts about the cats?*

We want the campus community and visitors to the University to know that our campus fur babies are loved and well cared for. Our group does our best to ensure a healthy and safe environment for our cats. It is important for us to represent an honest picture of what the culture is here toward the cats. We have received countless compliments from parents, potential students, students, faculty, staff and the public in regard to the friendly cats that greet them at MSR. It is important to educate people and in the process create more understanding and support for our feline population. Additionally, we are solely self-support. We gratefully accept donations: monetary, gift cards, food, bowls, shelters, bedding and veterinary care gift cards toward their needs.

- *What have been some of the reasons of not wanting any media coverage?*

While it is important to inform people, we do not want people to see our campus as an avenue for irresponsible behavior toward an animal. We don't want people to drop off animals here with a clear conscience thinking they will be cared for. Cats are territorial and will fight to keep their personal space. We do not want additional cats introduced to our established feline population.

- *What can students at Stan State do to help with the cats on campus?*

Volunteer their time and energy. Donate if they have the financial means to do so. Students can play a critical role in using their voice to advocate for the cats. Supporters are essential to maintaining sustainability of our efforts.

It is important to encourage compassion for the living creatures we share space with, and to promote involvement among our campus community and the community at large.

Follow us on Instagram @Advocats\_csustan and <https://www.facebook.com/advocats.csustan>