

Kokua Cats Responds to a Hidden Crisis in Albany

Behind a quiet home in Albany, a devastating cycle of suffering is unfolding. Dozens of feral and stray cats—many of them sick, starving, and flea-ridden—gather daily on a back porch where scraps of food are left out. Chicken liver, kibble, and other offerings lure them in, but beyond this minimal feeding, the cats receive no care. There is no clean water. No shelter. No medical attention. No spay or neuter efforts. Just unchecked reproduction and worsening neglect.

Kokua Cats has stepped in.

On our first visit, we were met by the homeowner, who asked us not to remove any kittens from the yard. Minutes later, we heard a faint cry. Beneath a shed, buried in dirt and crawling with fleas, we found a tiny kitten—cold, quiet, and alone. Though the day was warm, his body temperature was dangerously low. We took him and his siblings, fed them kitten milk replacement, and placed them on a heating pad wrapped in blankets.

Despite our efforts, most of the kittens did not survive. Severe flea infestations had caused life-threatening anemia, and their fragile bodies couldn't recover. But one kitten—small, determined, and clinging to life—made it through the night. He was rushed to a local shelter, where he received emergency care. Slowly, he began to eat. He continues to fight, and we continue to fight for him.

What we saw at that home was beyond neglect. Kittens with eyes sealed shut from infection. Fur matted and crawling with fleas. Some appear blind. All are starving.

When law enforcement arrived to conduct an animal welfare check, the homeowner denied ownership of the cats—despite feeding them daily and creating conditions that attract more. This denial appears to be an attempt to avoid legal accountability, even as the suffering continues in plain sight.

Kokua Cats, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit named after the Hawaiian value of selfless care, has committed to rescuing every kitten on the property and rehabilitating as many adult cats as possible. Those who cannot adapt to indoor life will be placed in barn cat programs with trusted local farmers.

This rescue is daunting. It's emotionally and physically exhausting. But it's also a rallying point.

Our volunteer base has tripled. Donations are pouring in. Foster homes are opening their doors. The City of Albany stands with us. And so does the community.

We don't know how many lives we'll save. We don't know how many will need critical care. But we do know this: we will not stop until this crisis is under control.

Together, we can kokua cats.