

# Read the story and answer the questions

Meet Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel, aka the 'The Cat Man of Aleppo.' This kindhearted animal lover has created a sanctuary for stray cats in Aleppo, Syria.

- What made Aleppo known to the whole world?
- What's the catman's main profession?
- What is the source of the shelter's budget?
- How do some cats show their devotion to former owners?



- Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel, a full-time ambulance driver and part-time cat caretaker living in Syrian Aleppo- has set up a cat shelter—the first of its kind in Syria—in one of the epicenters of the Syrian war. How does Aljaleel run an animal shelter in a warzone? The answer is that he is not alone. An online network of supporters around the world is donating to help the stray animals of east Aleppo. Every day, Aljaleel posts pictures of the cats in the shelter, and sometimes updates about his work as a first responder. Group members comment with messages of encouragement and support for him and the cats.
- “After all the rescue work today, all the tragedy and pain – still the cats eat,” wrote one supporter on a recent photo update by Aljaleel. “We love you for showing us what love looks like.” The Ernesto Cat Shelter consists of a shady, enclosed courtyard adjoining a house with space for the cats to sleep inside during the winter, and rooms for the basic medical treatment of injured animals.
- “The Civil Defense gives me cats who are injured,” said Aljaleel. “I’m no veterinarian, but I make casts and stitch up their wounds.” One of the dogs currently living at the shelter came to Aljaleel with a broken leg, and stayed after it healed.
- “There is a firm bond between humanitarianism and caring for animals,” Aljaleel said, “between rescuing an injured person who might die and an animal who has been injured and needs help.” Some of the cats are unable to forget their departed human companions and are hopeful that—some day—they will come back for them. Those cats only visit the shelter at meal times, said Aljaleel, then “go back to the houses they were raised in, and they wait for their owners.” As a result of Aljaleel’s humanitarian work, the commune of Segrate in Milan, Italy [launched](#) his candidacy for a Nobel Peace Prize , citing his “love and care for every living thing.”