



Cat Got Your Tongue?

NWRA Symposium 2013



Trap-Neuter-Return

- Trap-Neuter-Release
- Feral Cat Colony Management
- TNVR
- TNVRM
- TN and Re-abandon
- Trapped, Sterilized, Returned, Fed



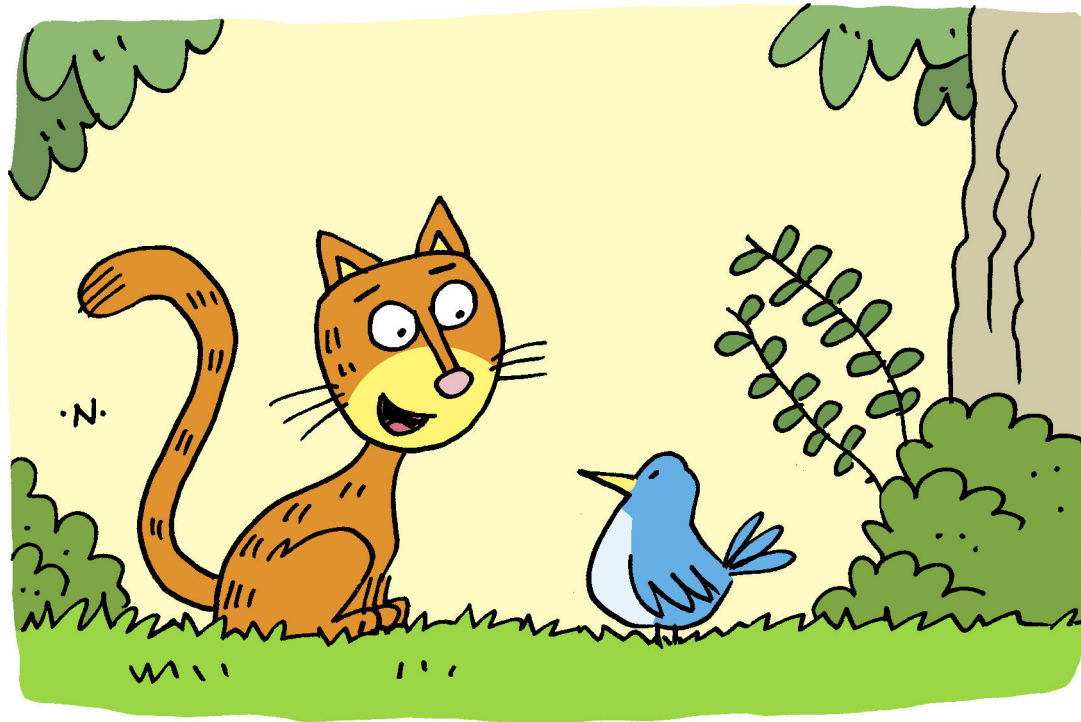
Non-native, Invasive, Predator

- Not native to any North American ecosystem
- Not an eco-friendly form of rodent control
- Occurrence in numbers exponentially higher than native predators
- Kills indiscriminately
- Feeding increases population
- Feeding does not affect motivation to hunt
- Neutering does not affect roaming
- Cat-injured wildlife often dies regardless of administered treatment



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Wishful thinking...



“It’s your lucky day. I just went vegan!”



Transmits Diseases

- Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)
- Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)
- Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV)
- Rabies
- Toxoplasmosis
- Bartonella henselae
- Toxocara
- Hookworm
- Murine typhus



off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi



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Community Cats

- Term created by Best Friends Animal Society
- Any cat living outdoors
- A deliberate attempt to convince the public that domestic cats are a natural part of the landscape



Community Cats

■ Maddie's Fund

□ What are "community cats"?

"Community cat" is an umbrella definition that includes any un-owned cat. These cats may be "feral" (un-socialized) or friendly, may have been born into the wild or may be lost or abandoned pet cats. Some community cats are routinely fed by one or more community members, while others survive without human intervention. Whatever a cat's individual circumstances, the term "community cat" reflects the reality that for these cats, "home" is within the community rather than in an individual household.



- [Feline Shelter Intake Reduction Program FAQs](#)

January 2013

Is it a good idea to stop admitting community cats into shelters? Yes, if admission equals death. That's the view of two of the nation's acknowledged leaders on community cat health and policy, the University of Florida's Julie Levy, DVM and UC Davis' Kate Hurley, DVM. [Read More ▶](#)

- [Community Cats: A Shelter Director's Evolution](#)

August 2012

Once upon a time, Barbara Carr believed feral cats lived short, miserable lives, and the kindest thing she could do for them was put them out of their misery. Today, the director of the Erie County SPCA believes the opposite, and is throwing her organization's resources into saving their lives, not taking them. Find out how history, research, data, and experience all came together to turn a skeptic into a community cat advocate, and how you can change minds and policy in your region the same way. [Read More ▶](#)

- [Tips for Working with Local Lawmakers: An Interview with Ryan Clinton](#)

August 2012

Ryan Clinton shares the strategy for working with local lawmakers that helped Austin, TX, set an aggressive no-kill goal for their city – which has been saving more than 90% of its animals for more than a year now. [Read More ▶](#)

- [How to Work With Municipalities to Save Community Cats](#)

August 2012

Do you ever feel like your local government agencies and officials just won't listen when you try to talk to them about progressive community cat policies? Maybe it's not them, but you. Rick DuCharme of First Coast No More Homeless Pets in Jacksonville, FL, explains how the power of relationships led to one of the nation's most successful community cat programs, and what steps you need to follow to build effective working relationships with the decision-makers in your community. Hint: It involves doughnuts. [Read More ▶](#)

- [High-Quality, High-Volume Spay/Neuter for Community Cats](#)

August 2012

Free-roaming cats have a variety of temperaments, and those who are "feral" need special consideration when performing anesthesia and spay/neuter. It is important to minimize the cat's stress and maximize safety for the humans who are providing medical care. [Read More ▶](#)



Community Cats

“The term ‘community cats’ acknowledges their niche in the community. It also embraces all types of un-owned free-roaming cats, including both feral and socialized cats who mingle in colonies, backyards, and front porches.”

Cats are dying in shelters by the millions – and a community cat philosophy is likely a way to help save many more lives. Community cats put some responsibility on the community in which the cats live.

SHELTERS' EDGE
The ASPCApro Blog

We're talking
about saving
animals' lives
here.

It's About Community...Community Cats, That Is



Community Cats

■ HSUS

- It is morally wrong, publicly unsupportable, and practically impossible to catch and euthanize the feral cats in our communities. There is no labor force large enough, or willing, to conduct such activities.
- While the problem of cat predation is real and very significant, there is nothing to be gained by demonizing cats or suggesting Draconian and far-out solutions.



Cats Outdoors



What Wilson's Warblers think I do



What House Wrens think I do



What Spotted Towhees think I do



What Blue Tits think I do



What European Robins think I do



What I actually do

Creative Commons images by Flickr users: footfun, susan_g, steelheadwill, theunstrainedeye, plandeze & binkley27



Community Cats

■ PetSmart Charities

- Since 2009, PetSmart Charities has provided more than \$26 million in grants that have subsidized almost 1 million spay/neuter surgeries in the United States, thanks to donations from the public.

Resources

[Resources Home](#)

[TNR Toolkit Home](#)

- Community Collaboration
- Building Spay/Neuter Capacity
- TNR Strategies
- Caretaker Training Workshops
- TNR Funding
- Data Collection
- Nuts and Bolts
- TNR Best Practices
- TNR Case Studies

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[Home](#) > [Resources](#) > [TNR Toolkit](#)

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Toolkit

Overview

In the 1980s and for much of the 1990s, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) was considered the radical, poor cousin of the animal welfare movement. Today, the landscape is much improved; TNR is increasingly embraced as an essential component of any effort aimed at reducing cat overpopulation. Funding from foundations and municipalities is growing, feral cat non-profits are springing up everywhere and the largest humane organizations in the country, including The Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA®, are firmly in favor of TNR.

This TNR "toolkit" is designed as a one-stop resource for anyone interested in developing a comprehensive TNR program or improving the efficiency of an existing program. The ideas and examples provided in this toolkit are based on the author's expertise but are not necessarily a replacement for your own research.

Topics

1. [Community Collaboration](#)

How We Help

Cat Trap Depot

The Petco Foundation exists to provide money, product and education to organizations that can use it. **A primary goal is education** - helping organizations to maximize their own assets of people, funds, products and resources. Most smaller animal welfare organizations are volunteer based and donation funded. They do not typically have the resources to pay for extensive training. They typically pour every cent they receive back into the animals that they are helping. The Petco Foundation works with thousands of such organizations and saw a need to help them help themselves.

Cat Trap Depot is a series of one day workshops that addresses the needs of feral cat organizations. The Petco Foundation teams up with local animal welfare groups, feral cat organizations and the ASPCA to bring this intensive workshop on feral cat management to communities that need it. These day-long seminars are offered at a fraction of the price that would normally be incurred if attending a large animal welfare conference (only \$10 per attendee). Attendees of Cat Trap Depot workshops get the benefit of hearing from 3-4 speakers from a diverse set of points of view - from animal control, to feral cat coalitions, to ASPCA, and veterinary perspectives. A vegetarian breakfast and lunch, t-shirts, prizes, a cat trap and more are provided to all participants.

Specifically addressed is the approach of TNR (Trap Neuter Return) and the benefits that this approach offer to the local community. Participants receive, and learn how to use, their very own Tru-Catch trap.

Workshops are held in convenient and accessible locations to provide cutting edge adoption knowledge to under-served areas of the country. 2013 workshops will be in Michigan, Texas, Louisiana, New York and Hawaii. See our [events page](#) for dates.

If you love cats and have ever considered volunteering for an organization, **consider volunteering for a feral cat group**. If you are in the communities that the Cat Trap Depot is being offered, we encourage you to attend and learn more about the groups and the need in your area.

happily sponsored by



Trivia

See the left ears of the cats in the photo above? Eartipping is the universal sign of a spayed or neutered feral cat. This is done while the cat is anesthetized for spay/neutering and healing is rapid and painless.

The very visual sign avoids unnecessary trapping and stress for cats that have already been sterilized. Eartipping identifies them as members of a managed TNR colony and is often a sign for animal control personnel that this is a cat that has a caretaker and "home" to be returned to.



Community Cats

■ Feral Freedom

□ Jacksonville, Florida (August, 2008)

- At first, cats deemed “feral” because they were aggressive or frightened in the traps were allowed to be transferred to the Feral Freedom program and live, while “friendly” cats from the same neighborhood, living outdoors under the same circumstances, were euthanized simply because they did not “act feral.” To remedy this inequity, guidelines for cats admitted to the program were changed. If they had been living outside with no specific home and doing well on their own, friendly “community cats” were also transferred to the Feral Freedom program. This natural progression addressing the needs of all outdoor cats expanded the program’s volume to around 4,500 community cats each year.



Community Cats

■ Feral Freedom

- The only cats considered ineligible for the Feral Freedom program are those who are surrendered by a family, indoor cats, declawed cats, those too unhealthy to return to the streets, and kittens too young to fend for themselves.



Community Cats

■ Feral Freedom

□ What about gauging public support?

- Concerns about potential opposition need to be considered when launching a Feral Freedom program. To avoid attracting negative attention or complaints, we decided to quietly establish the program and prove it was successful before actively seeking publicity.





Success?

- **Numerous feral cats spark neighborhood feud**
- Ortega residents say woman cares for 40-50 cats
- January, 2013
 - "My granddaughter last year was playing in the back and was covered in feces on her feet and legs, and we had to say, 'That's it. No more playing,'" Pinaud said.
 - That cat colony has spurred a neighborhood feud involving Animal Control, a city councilman and the woman who admits to regularly feeding them.
 - The city went to clean up the property in November. But Animal Control says it can't do anything about the cats because Railey has been unresponsive.

Community Cats



■ Feral Freedom

- This policy is consistent with the way the city handles complaints about raccoons or squirrels. The city does not remove these animals from residents' property, and outdoor cats will not simply be removed either. Assistance is offered in trapping the cats and sterilizing them in an effort to decrease and eventually eliminate outdoor cats. The program also offers advice on how to exclude cats from residents' property. For example, callers are counseled to use a hose or glass of water to scare off the cats.



Community Cats

- Alley Cat Allies
- Alley Cat Rescue
- FixNation



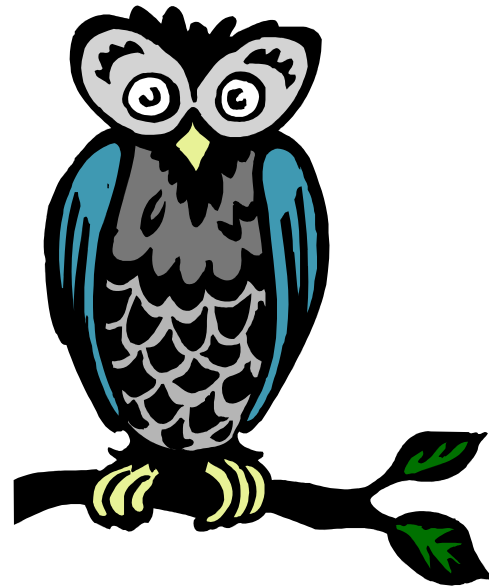


No-kill

- TNR is an essential component
- Reality
 - Wild animals still suffer
 - Animals languishing in facilities or released outdoors
 - Poor screening of potential adopters
 - TNR-only management
 - Shelters are encouraged not to accept stray/feral cats
 - Right to remove cats from property is affected



What To Do?





Campaigns

- American Bird Conservancy
 - *Cats Indoors!*
- Toronto Wildlife Centre
 - Keep Animals Safe
- Avian Haven
 - The Poacher Approach
- USFWS
 - State of the Birds, 2009

Resources

- Municipal, County and/or State Laws
- Poster Projects/Displays
- Fact Sheets/Brochures
- Educational Outreach
- Facility Stats/Data
- Peer-reviewed Scientific Publications



I'm sorry Vern, but I can't let you tell the Friedbergs what really happened to their parrot. I suggest you hang up before this gets ugly.





No-Kill Movement Means Death for Birds

- Guest editorial by Travis Longcore, Ph.D.
- Bird Calls OCTOBER 2012 | Vol. 16, No. 3
- Bird conservationists need to start paying attention to animal sheltering legislation or risk not being able to remove stray and feral cats from places where they threaten birds, whether they be back yards or nature reserves.
- TNR policies are generally coupled with an abandonment by local jurisdictions of traditional animal control functions for stray and feral cats. Once a TNR program is in place, rules are changed so that it becomes illegal or extremely difficult to trap and take a feral cat to an animal shelter. Cats that have been neutered and are being fed outdoors are marked by cutting off the tip of one ear, and shelters receiving such cats will return them to the person feeding them or to any “rescue” group.



PeTA

- <http://www.peta.org/issues/no-kill-label-slowly-killing-animals.aspx>
- <http://www.peta.org/features/caboodle-cat-ranch.aspx>
 - **Caboodle Ranch, Inc.**, was a self-proclaimed "cat rescue sanctuary" in Madison County, Florida, that boasted that it gave cats "everything they will ever need to live a happy healthy life." **But PETA's undercover investigation found that the "ranch" was essentially a one-person operation and that the approximately 700 cats at the "no kill" facility lived in filthy, crowded conditions and suffered from chronic neglect.**



PeTA

- A shelter in California enacted a new policy last year to refuse to accept "healthy" feral cats and even justifies this by saying that such cats "help control the rodent population," although it makes no mention of the billions of songbirds that feral cats also "control." Can you imagine a reputable shelter having a similar policy for stray dogs?
- If we want to get serious about protecting wildlife - and cats - we need to change the way that we view cats. We need to start thinking of them as our best friends, our beloved companions, our lifelong responsibility. Like dogs, they should be licensed, included in "leash laws" (i.e., required to be kept indoors unless accompanied) and, most importantly, spayed or neutered. This is the only way we will ever start to put a dent in the staggering homeless cat problem - and allow America's wildlife to breathe a sigh of relief.



“KittyCam” Records What Outdoor Cats Get Up To

- Bird Calls OCTOBER 2012 | Vol. 16, No. 3
- “We found that about 30% of the sampled cats were successful in capturing and killing prey, and that those cats averaged about one kill for every 17 hours outdoors or 2.1 kills per week. It was also surprising to learn that cats only brought 23% of their kills back to a residence.” Lloyd said the researchers found that house cats killed a wide variety of animals, including lizards, voles, chipmunks, birds, frogs, and small snakes.



off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi



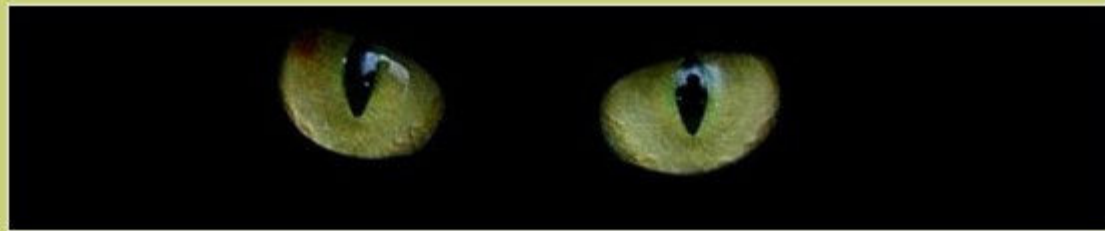
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Kitty Cams

The National Geographic & University of Georgia
Kitty Cams (Crittercam) Project
"A window into the world of free-roaming cats"

■ <http://www.kittycams.uga.edu/>



■ What ARE our cats doing outside?

WELCOME! Kitty Cams research examined the nature of outdoor activities of owned cats by monitoring pets outfitted with "Kitty Cam" video cameras. Kitty Cams allow recording of a cat-eye view without disrupting behavior. We used Kitty Cams to investigate the activities of urban free-roaming cats in Athens, Georgia from Nov. 2010 -Oct. 2011, with goals for wildlife conservation and for improving the health and well-being of pet cats.

Kitty Cam Research

Learn more about our research into the interactions and behavior of cats in the environment.

Kitty Cam Photos & Videos

Explore our amazing kitty cam videos and photos showing the daily life of free-roaming cats



A Day in the Life of a Traveling Feline

- New technology to track free-roaming cats
- The Wildlife Society News
- <http://news.wildlife.org/featured/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-traveling-feline/>
- Over the course of our study, we collected more than 2,000 hours of video footage of free-roaming cat activities without disrupting cat movement, hunting, or resting. We found that on a daily basis, free-roaming pet cats spend an average of five to six hours outdoors. Some common activities involve crossing roads (potentially putting cats at risk of injury), interacting with other cats (a potential route of disease transmission or trauma from fights), climbing trees (a threat to nesting birds), and entering crawl spaces (potentially to hunt or rest).
- We saw numerous cats playing with their prey, with several bird captures lasting for over 20 minutes as cats released and recaptured the birds. One of the most surprising behaviors we witnessed was cats “cheating” on their owners: Four cats in our study entered other households for food and affection.



The Wildlife Society

Facts About Feral Cats



The domestic cat (*Felis catus*) is the most popular pet in the United States, with numbers ranging between 148 and 188 million individuals. Originally bred from wild cats (*Felis silvestris*) in the Near East approximately 10,000 years ago, domestic cats are now considered a distinct species.

As a domesticated animal, cats have no native range and, therefore, are a non-native species in natural systems worldwide. In addition, native prey species often have no evolved defenses against this exotic predator, making the domestic cat a potential threat wherever it is introduced.

[Read our special package on the Impacts of Free-Roaming Cats](#)

Please check out our fact sheets to learn more about:

- [General Facts about Domestic Cats](#)
- [Ecological Impacts of Feral Cats](#)
- [Rabies in Humans and Wildlife](#)
- [Problems with Trap-Neuter-Release](#)
- [Toxoplasmosis in Feral Cats: Health Risks to Humans and Wildlife](#)
- [Human-Wildlife Conflict](#)



The Wildlife Society

- Wildlife Professional, Spring 2011, Vol. 5, No. 1

In Focus: The Impacts of Free-Roaming Cats

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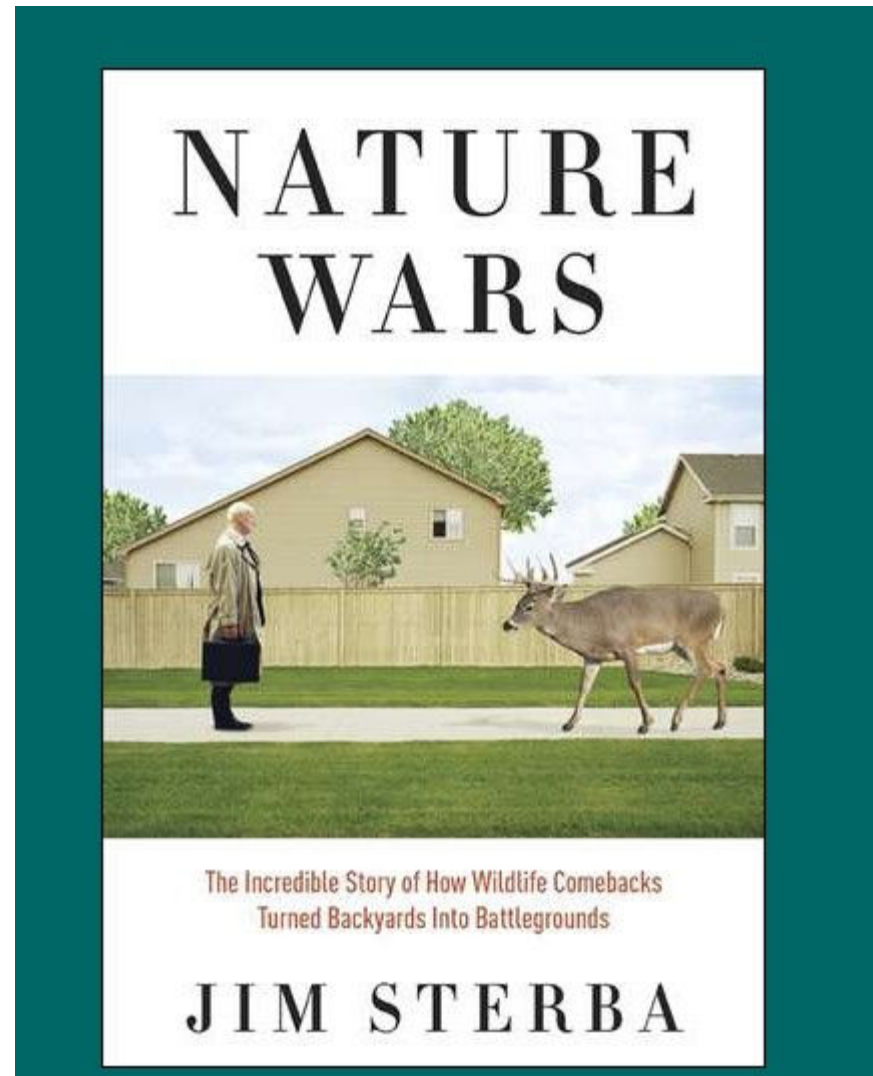


National Geographic

- The Threat of Invasive Species – and Interview with Dr. Michael Hutchins
- December 2012
- Cat advocacy groups have sold TNR as an effective way to control feral cat populations to a growing number of municipalities around the country. In fact, there is a movement in the U.S. to stop accepting stray and feral cats at shelters, to treat feral cats as protected wildlife, and to prevent private landowners from controlling feral cats on their properties. Under this scenario, shelters simply become revolving doors back into outdoor colonies.

Nature Wars

■ By Jim Sterba



Outdoor Cats: Single Greatest Source of Human-Caused Mortality for Birds and Mammals, Says New Study

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Robert Johns, 202-234-7181 ext.210, [Email click here](#)



Cat with American Coot by Debi Shearwater.
Photo can be used with credit.

(Washington, D.C., January 29, 2013) A new [peer-reviewed study](#) published today and authored by scientists from two of the world's leading science and wildlife organizations – the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – has found that bird and mammal mortality caused by outdoor cats is much higher than has been widely reported, with annual bird mortality now estimated to be 1.4 to 3.7 billion and mammal mortality likely 6.9 – 20.7 billion individuals.

The study, which offers the most comprehensive analysis of information on the issue of outdoor cat predation, was published in the online research journal *Nature Communications* and is based on a review of 90 previous studies. The study was authored by Dr. Peter Marra and Scott Loss, research scientists at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and by Tom Will from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Birds.

ARTICLE

Received 6 Sep 2012 | Accepted 12 Dec 2012 | Published 29 Jan 2013

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms2380

The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States

Scott R. Loss¹, Tom Will² & Peter P. Marra¹

Anthropogenic threats, such as collisions with man-made structures, vehicles, poisoning and predation by domestic pets, combine to kill billions of wildlife annually. Free-ranging domestic cats have been introduced globally and have contributed to multiple wildlife extinctions on islands. The magnitude of mortality they cause in mainland areas remains speculative, with large-scale estimates based on non-systematic analyses and little consideration of scientific data. Here we conduct a systematic review and quantitatively estimate mortality caused by cats in the United States. We estimate that free-ranging domestic cats kill 1.4–3.7 billion birds and 6.9–20.7 billion mammals annually. Un-owned cats, as opposed to owned pets, cause the majority of this mortality. Our findings suggest that free-ranging cats cause substantially greater wildlife mortality than previously thought and are likely the single greatest source of anthropogenic mortality for US birds and mammals. Scientifically sound conservation and policy intervention is needed to reduce this impact.



HUFF POST GREEN

Domestic Cats and Billions of Birds

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Cats Kill Billions of Animals Annually, Study Finds

29 January 2013 Last updated at 11:25 ET

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Cats killing billions of animals in the US

By Rebecca Morelle
Science reporter, BBC World Service

CBCnews | Technology & Science

IN THE NEWS

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- Google glasses

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Killer cats take down billions of birds, report says

Leading human-linked cause of death for birds and mammals

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USA TODAY NEWS SPORTS LIFE MONEY TECH TRAVEL OPINION

Cats kill up to 3.7B birds annually

Chuck Raasch, USA TODAY | 1:10a.m. EST January 30, 2013

New study shows that feline threat to birds is greater than previously thought.

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The Washington Post Politics Opinions

Health & Science



Outdoor cats kill between 1.4 billion and 3.7 billion birds a year, study says

Killer cats leave billions of avian, rodent victims, study finds



Study: Cats kill billions of animals a year



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Daily News

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Hello Kitty! Please Don't Kill Me!

Cats kill billions of birds and mammals every year, new study says.



A domestic cat stalks turkeys in Maine.

Photograph by Bill Curtsinger, National Geographic

That Cuddly Kitty Is Deadlier Than You Think



James Morton

A domestic cat with a European rabbit. Domestic and feral cats are significant predators of a wide range of prey species, including rabbits.

By NATALIE ANGIER

Published: January 29, 2013 | 1691 Comments



SoCal Connected

- L.A.'s Proposed No-Kill Policy Raises Hackles on Both Sides
- http://www.kcet.org/shows/socal_connected/content/animals/las-proposed-no-kill-policy-raises-hackles-on-both-sides.html
 - A judge bars removal of 20 to 35 cats that were due to be removed in advance of a \$150-million renovation of the Lincoln Place apartments.
 - To build its case, the alliance argued that it had property interest in the cats because it had spent thousands of dollars feeding, sterilizing, vaccinating, microchipping and otherwise caring for the animals.
 - <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/oct/25/local/la-me-stray-cats-20121026>



Public Health

Zoonoses and Public Health

REVIEW ARTICLE

Zoonotic Diseases Associated with Free-Roaming Cats

R. W. Gerhold¹ and D. A. Jessup²

¹ Center for Wildlife Health, Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, USA

² California Department of Fish and Game (retired), Santa Cruz, CA, USA

Impacts

- Free-roaming cats are an important source of zoonotic diseases including rabies, *Toxoplasma gondii*, cutaneous larval migrans, tularemia and plague.
- Free-roaming cats account for the most cases of human rabies exposure among domestic animals and account for approximately 1/3 of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis treatments in humans in the United States.
- Trap–neuter–release (TNR) programmes may lead to increased naïve populations of cats that can serve as a source of zoonotic diseases.



NASPHV

- Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2011

- *STRAY ANIMALS: Stray dogs, cats, and ferrets should be removed from the community. Local health departments and animal control officials can enforce the removal of strays more effectively if owned animals are required to have identification and are confined or kept on leash. Strays should be impounded for at least 3 business days to determine if human exposure has occurred and to give owners sufficient time to reclaim animals.*
- *Local governments should initiate and maintain effective programs to ensure vaccination of all dogs, cats, and ferrets and to remove strays and unwanted animals.*
- <http://nasphv.org/Documents/RabiesCompendium.pdf>



Conclusion – The Time is MEOW!

- Pay attention to animal sheltering legislation
- Be proactive
- Speak to municipal and county officials and health officials
 - Discuss all aspects of this issue
- Watch for state legislation
- Distribute resources
- Network



Thank You!

off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi



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