

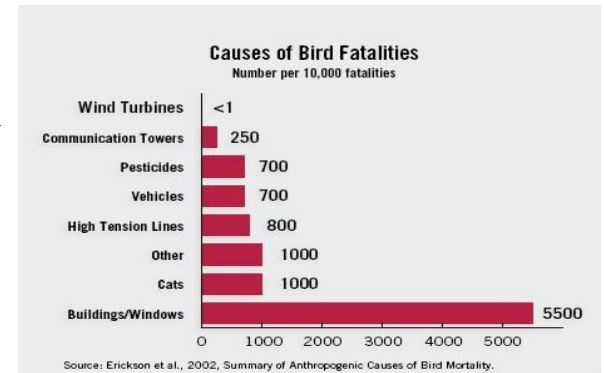


Facts About Cats and Wildlife:

Some estimate that there are over 90 million domestic cats in the United States, many of which spend time outdoors. One study estimates that between 7.8 and 219 million birds are killed annually in Wisconsin alone (Coleman and Temple)! Cats may kill many animals each year and may not eat them, but instead “play” with them until they die. Not all wild animals caught and eaten by cats are brought back home to show owners (Fiore and Sullivan). Loss of wildlife habitat and fragmentation due to the activities of human development are the leading causes of declining bird populations. However, scientists now list invasive species, including cats, as the second most serious threat to bird populations worldwide (www.abcbirds.org).

Some Reasons to Keep Cats Indoors:

Indoor cats live longer and have fewer health problems than outdoor cats. Outdoor cats can be a vector for human disease such as toxoplasmosis. Keeping cats indoors keeps them safe from cars and other predators. Indoor cats contract fewer diseases than outdoor cats. Cats are considered an exotic invasive species. This is because they prey on native wildlife who didn't evolve with cats, and non-neutered cats proliferate at high rates. Cats love being loved by their owners and home is the best place receive that love!



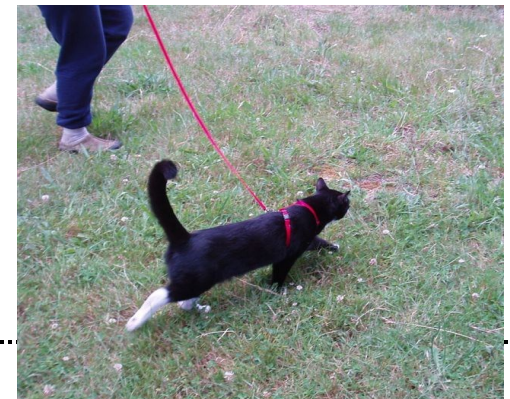
Protecting Wildlife:

Build natural hiding places for wildlife out of brush and woody debris, provide water in areas without natural sources and plant native species to create more habitat. Place bird feeders and baths away from easy access to cats. Neuter your animals! Don't dump cats into wild or rural areas if you can't care for them any longer, thus preventing feral animal populations from growing.



What You Can do to Keep Your Cat Happy Indoors:

By providing a rotating array of toys for cats to play with, they will remain active and interested. Providing interesting items for your feline to observe throughout the day, like a fish tank or bird feeder outside a window will surely keep him occupied for hours. Training your cat to walk on a leash gives him the opportunity to get some outdoor exercise and air. Outdoor enclosures allow for cats to be outdoors without giving them the opportunity to hunt for wildlife. Creating an interesting “habitat” at home will keep cats happy.



Where to go for More Information:

Humane Society of the United States:

- http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/care/keep_your_cat_safe_at_home_hsus_safe_cats_campaign/index.html
- <http://www.audubonathome.org/SafeCats.html>

Ways to keep Kitty happy indoors:

- <http://www.habitathaven.com/cat-enclosures.html>
- http://cfhs.ca/athome/happy_indoor_cat/
- <http://www.cat-world.com.au/KeepingIndoorCatsHappy.htm>

Studies:

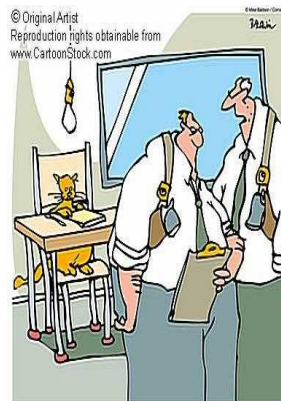
- http://www.geocities.com/the_srco/Study.html (Fiore and Sullivan)
- <http://www.wnrmag.com/stories/1996/dec96/cats.htm> (Coleman and Temple)
- <http://wildlife.wisc.edu/extension/cattfly3.htm>
- http://www.wildlife.org/policy/TWS_testimony_feral_cats.pdf

Cats Indoors! Campaign website :

- www.abcbirds.org



For more information or technical assistance with wildlife habitat enhancements, please contact the Thurston Conservation District at **(360) 754-3588**. Visit our Website at www.thurstoncd.com, or see us in the office at **2918 Ferguson St. SW Suite A, Tumwater, WA 98512**.



"I got 397 dead birds and the mayor breathing down my neck. So, is this our perp or just another copycat?"

The Exotic Invasive Species That
We All Love:

CATS and Their Threat to Wildlife

Your Cat's Natural Behavior May be Affecting
Hundreds of Birds and Small Animals Each
Year!



Domestic cats hunt wildlife and place
extra stress on the habitats they need
for survival.



**Thurston
Conservation District**

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