

WHAT YOU CAN DO

CHECK OUT THESE USEFUL RESOURCES



IS YOUR CAT SAFE OUTDOORS?

Know the risks and how to protect your pet, local birds, and our natural heritage.



If you find an injured songbird
Contact a wildlife rehabilitator near you
www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildliferehabilitator

How to keep your cat indoors

Although it's easiest to raise your cat to stay indoors as a kitten, it IS possible to train an adult!

To transition an outdoor cat to indoor life:



- Feed your cat indoors, keeping them inside for increasingly longer times after feeding



- Familiarize your cat to a scratching post and litter box first, and transition them slowly. To prevent injury to your cat, purchase a scratching post large enough to support the weight of your cat.



- Give cats stimulating toys to help foster their natural behaviours (e.g. hunting-based toys, a cat tree or jungle for climbing), play with your cat, and try giving them catnip



- Bring the outdoors inside
 - Provide a sunny window perch
 - Try growing cat grass
 - Provide hiding places



- Make the indoors comfortable
 - Keep the litter tray clean
 - Keep eating, drinking, litter, resting, and hiding places well-separated
 - Consider a second cat as a playmate

Safe outdoor options:

- Spay / neuter your cat
- Provide a screen-enclosed outside area
- Harness train them for outdoor walks
- Ensure your cat has an ID tag or microchip



CatsandBirds.ca



Ontario SPCA and Humane Society

spca.bc.ca/pet-care/care-behaviour/cats



Cats Protection

goo.gl//QVfvPT



Petfinder

petfinder.com/cats/cat-care



Facebook

[TakingCareofCatsandBirds](https://www.facebook.com/TakingCareofCatsandBirds)



Twitter

[@SafeCatSafeBird](https://twitter.com/SafeCatSafeBird)



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Your cat is in **DANGER** outside

As many as 40% of domestic cats spend time roaming outdoors, but these cats encounter many dangers and have significantly lower life expectancies.

RISKS TO CATS OUTDOORS:

- Being hit by a car
- Disease (e.g. feline leukemia, feline aids, heartworm, rabies)
- Abuse
- Poisoning (e.g. from garden plants, antifreeze, rat poison)
- Frostbite
- Injury from fights with other animals
- Parasites (e.g. fleas, ticks)

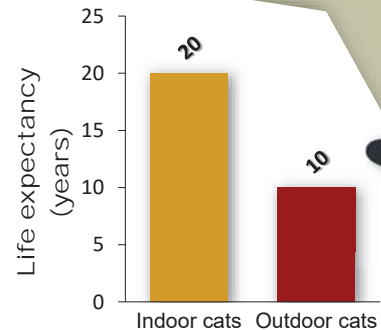
DID YOU KNOW?

London by-laws forbid domestic pets to roam beyond the owner's property

in CANADA
50,000
HOMELESS CATS
EUTHANIZED
in 1 YEAR

1300 DEAD CATS
COLLECTED OFF
the STREETS of
TORONTO
in 1 YEAR

CATS
that roam free
ARE EXPOSED TO
DISEASES,
TOXINS,
VEHICLE COLLISIONS
and OTHER CATS



Source: Lacheretz et al. *Revue Méd. Vét.*, 2002, **153**, 12, 819-822



BIRDS are at risk

Birds are more than just a pretty song; they help to pollinate plants, disperse seeds, and control insect pests. Unfortunately, cats are the leading cause of direct, human-related songbird mortality. Vulnerable birds include many species at risk (e.g. Barn Swallow and Wood Thrush). Roaming cats have already contributed to the extinction of 34 species of birds.

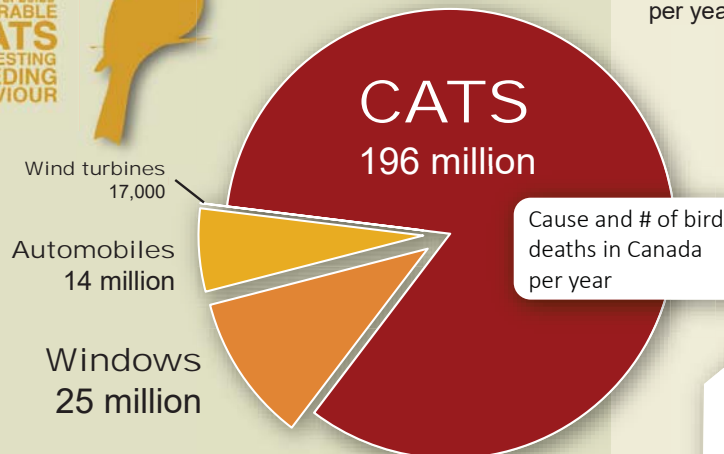
BIRD SPECIES AT RISK UP FROM 47 to 86 BETWEEN 2001 & 2014

75% OF HUMAN-RELATED BIRD DEATHS CAUSED BY CATS
approx. **200** PER YEAR MILLION

115 BIRD SPECIES VULNERABLE to CATS
due to NESTING & FEEDING BEHAVIOUR



DID YOU KNOW?
A bell on your cat's collar only reduces bird kills by 40-50%



Our **NATURAL HERITAGE** is at risk

Cats are a non-native species in North America and can negatively impact local ecosystems. In addition to killing birds, cats prey on other wildlife including small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, and can also transmit diseases. Loss of wildlife impacts other species such as native carnivores, and destabilizes the food web. This problem is exacerbated by increasing numbers of stray cats.

DID YOU KNOW?
Each domestic outdoor cat kills an estimated 4-18 birds and 8-21 small mammals per year

