

# CATS AND BIRDS

KEEP CATS SAFE AND SAVE BIRD LIVES



There is a rising trend across Canada for cat owners to keep their cats from roaming outdoors. Research shows that 72% of Canadian cat owners keep their cats safe indoors or outdoors with supervision. Let's keep that number rising!

## FACTS:

- Indoor cats can live up to five times longer than outdoor cats. Exceptions don't make the rule!
- Cats are exposed to dangers every time they are allowed to roam outside without supervision. These threats include: car collisions, wildlife attacks, fights with other pets, contracting diseases, etc.
- Keeping your pet cat indoors ensures they will not get lost and abandoned.
- Outdoor cats, including feral cats, are contributing to large scale declines of bird populations. It is estimated that cats annually kill 100-350 million birds in Canada alone. However, cats also attack other native wildlife, such as, reptiles, rodents and small mammals.

## RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERS:

Across Canada, responsible cat owners are already taking the following steps to ensure the safety of their cats and reduce the impacts their pets have on native wildlife:

- Keep their cats safe indoors, allowed outside only if on a leash or in an enclosure.
- Provide an enriched indoors environment with play-time, toys, perches or cat furniture.
- Ensure their cats, and any cat they feed, are spayed/neutered.
- Provide their cat with identification, preferably both visible and permanent.
- Respect their municipality's cat/pet by-laws (no-roaming, mandatory ID/license, spay/neuter, etc.)

## RETRAINING YOUR OUTDOOR CAT:

Transitioning your outdoor cat to an indoor cat can seem daunting, but with proper training, most cats can adjust within a month. Here are some of our favorite tips:

- Introduce controlled access to outdoors, such as cat enclosures or leashed walks, and reduce unsupervised outdoor visits.
- Spayed/Neutered cats have less desire to go outside and roam.
- Enrich the indoor environment. Provide perches/cat shelves, cat TV, cat furniture and toys. Remember that nothing can replace actual play-time with your cat.

### HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR CAT SAFE INDOORS?

*"We keep our (two) cats occupied by providing them with love and affection. We have plenty of cat toys for them to play with, and we got a **catio** for them as well. Clementine, one of our cats, likes to lay down and have us throw the toys at her to play catch. We always have food in the bird feeder and provide a comfy place indoors for our cats to sit and watch. Our cats are now 16, and have always been indoor cats. Their favourite activity is napping on the electric blanket during winter."*

Nathaniel, AB  
Cats and Birds Supporter

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## WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS:

- Domestic cats are not part of the natural ecosystem in North America. Wildlife on this continent evolved for millennia without cats and therefore have not had a chance to develop defensive mechanisms.
- Cats are skilled natural hunters and can have a devastating impact on local wildlife populations.
- Cats are both predators and prey, thus can fall victim to larger predators such as cougars, coyotes, foxes, fishers, etc.
- As a cat owner, the responsibility to keep cats and wildlife separate and ensuring the safety of both starts with you!

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

We have developed a detailed e-book designed to help cat owners provide a safe and enriched indoors environment. Amongst other things, you will learn tips to transition your cat, how to deal with cats that are escape artists, basic cat training, how to build a DIY Cat Shelf, and more! Find out how you can access the book by emailing us at: [info@catsandbirds.ca](mailto:info@catsandbirds.ca)



**THOUSANDS OF CATS DIE EVERY YEAR** unnecessarily from the **elements**

**3/4** CANADIAN CAT OWNERS NOW KEEP THEIR CATS FROM ROAMING FREELY

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

**BIRD SPECIES AT RISK** ARE UP FROM **47** to **86** BETWEEN 2001 & 2004

**IN CANADA, BIRD DEATHS CAUSED BY CATS** approx. **100 to 350** MILLION\* per year

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




\*The fault is not on cats but on irresponsible management of cats by humans.

## HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR CAT AND LOCAL WILDLIFE SAFE?

We want to hear from you. Email us at [info@catsandbirds.ca](mailto:info@catsandbirds.ca) and share the steps you take to protect cats and birds and you could enter a draw to win a Cats and Birds goodie bag! You can also learn more about our program by visiting [www.catsandbirds.ca](http://www.catsandbirds.ca)