



Interactions of Free-Roaming Cats and Wildlife

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Message from the Guest Editors

Cats were domesticated approximately 10,000 years ago. Today, cats are distributed globally, with the ecological status of their populations defined by their relationships with people. Lifestyles range from pet cats confined constantly to human premises, pet cats supported by human households but able to roam freely, unowned semi-feral cats at least partially supported by people, and feral cats with self-sustaining, independent populations. In all cases, cats may interact with local wildlife by hunting, transmitting diseases and interbreeding.

These interactions give rise to many questions, including:

1. Are wildlife populations endangered by cats?
2. If they are endangered, how can they be protected? What differences are required for pets as opposed to semi-feral or truly feral cats?
3. What welfare issues, involving both cats and wildlife, must be addressed?
4. How well do different stakeholder groups including veterinarians, pet owners, ecologists and animal welfare professionals communicate with each other?
5. Can cats protect wildlife populations by controlling rodents that prey on wildlife?

Original manuscripts that address these issues are invited for this Special Issue.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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