



Urban Stray Cats: Monitoring and Control of Population

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Message from the Guest Editor

Management of the unowned urban stray cat population is a major challenge. This is because of the prolific breeding rate of undesexed female cats, and the considerable task of trapping and removing or desexing sufficient animals to maintain control of the population. There are no generally agreed standards for enumerating stray cat populations or monitoring their dynamics. Methods based on camera traps, foot patrols to count or photograph cats, and tracking collars on released animals have been used. Although theoretical modeling may provide some insight into population dynamics, this approach should ideally be supported by evidence from field-based research. Proposed solutions range from focused or generalized trap/cull programs, through to broadly applied or targeted trap/desex strategies with or without release of the animal back into its urban environment. In this special issue, I hope to stimulate ongoing informed discussion of the relative merits and effectiveness of these different population control strategies.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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