

# Please Keep Cats Indoors



Mobile Pet Grooming, San Diego

## Better for Wildlife

A 2013 study by scientists from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that approximately **1.4 to 3.7 billion birds are killed annually** in the United States **by outdoor domestic cats**. Annual wild mammal mortality is as high as 20.7 billion individuals (Loss *et al.* 2013). Domestic cats have been either a direct or indirect factor in the extinction of 33 bird species (NY Audubon Society).

A highly pathogenic bacterium known as *Pasteurella multocida* is present in cats' mouths. It causes an infection that can quickly spread through the surrounding tissues of the victim. A condition called septicemia, also known as "blood poisoning", often results killing most wildlife injured by cats, even those admitted to rehabilitation facilities and prescribed antibiotics.



Gail Loveman in The Denver Post

## Better for Cats

**Cats allowed outside are susceptible to predation, parasites, diseases, animal cruelty, cars, and environmental toxins** (American Humane Society). Cats can enjoy indoor life with a companion cat, interactive toys, scratching posts, hiding places and climbing areas.

## Better for People

The risk of people contracting rabies is highest if they have a cat that is exposed to wild animals. **Cats are consistently the number-one carrier of rabies among domestic animals** and disproportionately pose a risk of human exposure to rabies because of the high frequency of human-cat interactions (American Bird Conservancy and Centers for Disease Control).



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