Please Keep Cats Indoors

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.

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).