

For their own good and the good of wildlife...

# Please Keep Domestic Cats Inside

Domestic cats are great companions to many people, and deserve a safe and happy life. The outdoors presents many dangers to them, and outdoor cats present many dangers to wildlife. Please make sure your feline friends (and the animals that call Louisiana home) stay safe and happy!

Examples of dangers to outdoor cats:

- Feline leukemia
- Feline AIDS
- Heartworms
- Pregnancy
- Animal attacks
- Collisions with cars
- Getting lost or stolen
- Poisoning
- Getting caught in traps
- Overheating
- Hypothermia
- Internal parasites
- External parasites



Here is an excerpt to consider from the US Fish and Wildlife Service Feral Cat Fact Sheet:

Q: Why are cats an issue for wildlife?

Cats have contributed to the decline and even the extinction of many species of birds and many small mammals around the world, mostly on islands. Scientist estimate that every year in the United States free-roaming cats kill hundreds of millions of native birds and small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, including species of conservation concern and more common species. Cats are recognized as a widespread and serious threat to the integrity of native wildlife populations and natural ecosystems. Although many free-roaming cats appear healthy or happy at a given point in time, they typically have hard lives and high death rates that result in reduced longevity. Their run-ins with wildlife include competition, predation, and disease transmission.

Source: <http://www.fws.gov/nationalkeydeer/pdfs/FeralCatsFactsheet.pdf>

Handout courtesy of Louisiana Exotic Animal Resource Network [www.learnaboutcritters.org](http://www.learnaboutcritters.org)