



Conducting a *Cats Indoors!* Campaign in Your Community

by
American Bird Conservancy
www.abcbirds.org

Funded by the Pet Care Trust



THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAFER BIRDS & CATS



PETER B. BEST
WESTERN
Birds
WESTERN BIRDS



Safe Outdoor Enclosure



**Cat Feeding Station in Golden Gate
Natural Recreation Area, CA**

Keeping Cats Indoors
Isn't **Just For The Birds!**



CATS INDOORS!

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAFER BIRDS & CATS



AMERICAN
BIRD
CONSERVANCY

Cats Indoors!

An Educator's Guide
for Grades K-6



Dear Teacher:

Cats are the most popular pets in the United States. Their fascinating behavior and physical beauty endear them to their owners. But inside every cat are the genes of an efficient, prolific, and non-native predator. Scientists estimate that free-roaming cats kill hundreds of millions of birds and probably more than a billion other small wild animals in the United States yearly.

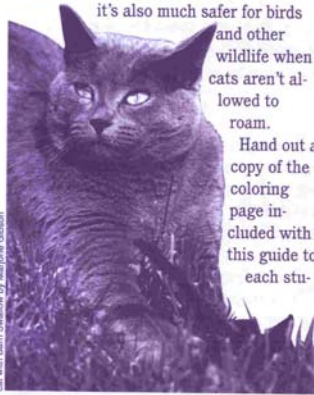
Recognizing that cat predation is both a local concern and a national issue, American Bird Conservancy has created this educator's guide to help you acquaint your students with this pervasive problem. Use the information on the back of the coloring page included with this guide as background for you and as an introduction for any of the activities you plan to use. The activities cross the curriculum and will fit into your lesson plans neatly. With your help, future generations of wild animals will be safer, and cats will live longer, healthier lives. Plus your students will gain valuable skills by participating in the activities suggested here. Thank you for your help.—*American Bird Conservancy*

1. The Great Outdoors Is No Place for Cats

Cats allowed outdoors face a host of hazards ranging from automobile accidents to poisoning to disease. After learning of the many dangers that threaten outdoor cats, it's easy to conclude that the best place for a cat is safe indoors. And

it's also much safer for birds and other wildlife when cats aren't allowed to roam.

Hand out a copy of the coloring page included with this guide to each stu-



cat with Brian Binkley by Marjorie Gibson

dent and give kids time to color the page. Ask kids not to turn the pages over until you tell them to do so. Then ask them to circle the things shown in the picture that are dangerous to the cat. After everyone has finished, use the information on the back of the coloring page to go over the answers. Your kids may notice that the cat isn't the only one in danger in the picture. Outdoor cats pose a serious threat to birds and other wildlife. What's an easy solution to protect cats and wildlife? Keep cats indoors, of course!

Now that your students know how important it is to keep cats indoors, help them pass the word on to their families. Send the finished coloring pages home with the kids to share. Add a personal note of your own if you like. You might also consider ordering copies of the brochure "Keeping Cats Indoors Isn't Just for the Birds" to accompany them. Ordering information for the brochure is found under "Resources" on page 6.

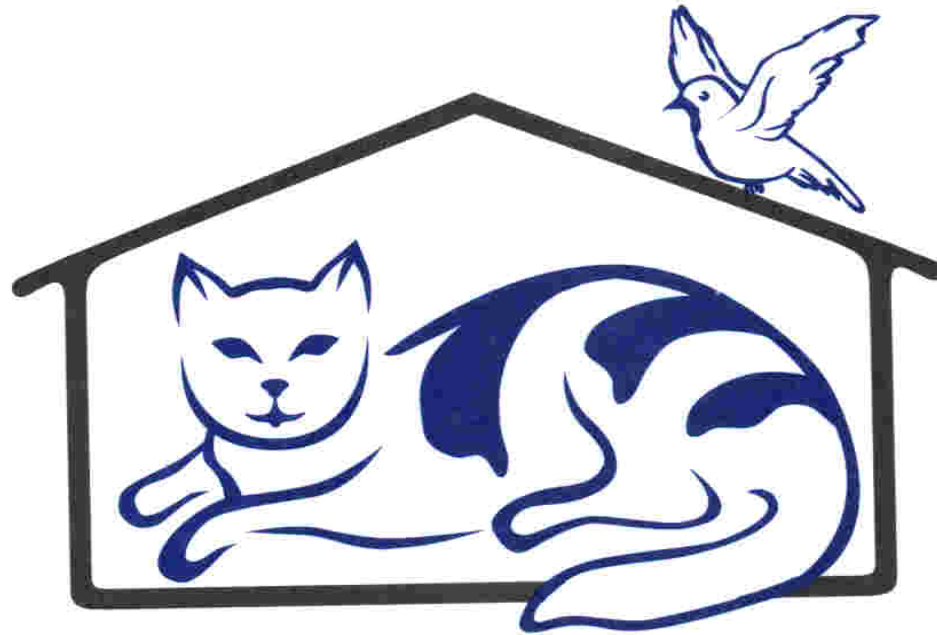
Grades: K-3

Subjects: language arts, science, art

Objective: Name several dangers to cats outdoors and share this information with family members.

Materials Needed: copies of coloring page for each student, markers or crayons

Answers: car, spilled antifreeze, dog, sick cat, mischievous boy trying to catch cat, cat in tree could fall, cat could fall into open storm drain



CATS INDOORS!

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Keeping cats indoors is the best way to give them safe, healthy, and long lives.



Photo: Gavin G. Shire © American Bird Conservancy

With special thanks to Alexandria Animal Hospital, Alexandria, VA

For more information see www.abcbirds.org



**Be a responsible pet owner.
Keep your cat indoors...**



Each year thousands of cats die on the roads or are injured in fights outdoors, and hundreds of millions of birds and small mammals are killed by free-roaming cats. Cats live happier, healthier, longer lives indoors.

For more information contact: American Bird Conservancy
1834 Jefferson Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036
www.abcbirds.org



CATS INDOORS!

THE CATS INDOORS SOCIETY & BIRDS & CATS



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The Truth About Cats and Wildlife

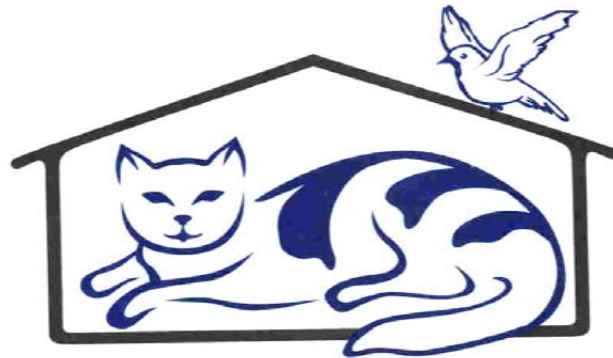
1. Well-fed cats do kill wildlife and can impact wildlife populations
2. Cats with bells on their collars do kill wildlife
3. Wildlife that escapes injured from a cat will die, unless taken to a rehabber immediately
4. De-clawed cats still kill wildlife





Outdoor cats suffer and die from disease, starvation, bad weather, injury or death by cars or other animals, getting lost, stolen, or poisoned.

Conducting Your Own Cats Indoors! Campaign



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Keeping Cats Indoors
Isn't Just for the Birds!



Puget Sound
Cats Indoors Coalition



Graphic courtesy of American Bird Conservancy

Local Education Campaigns

- **Humane Society for Seattle/King Co.**
- **Progressive Animal Welfare Society**
- **Seattle Audubon Society**
- **WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife**
- **Seattle Animal Control**
- **King County Wildlife Program**
- **ABC**

**State run
Education
Campaigns:**

Florida and Minnesota



National Keep Your Cat Indoors Day



Local Cat Ordinance Campaigns





Giving Parks Back to Wildlife and People





Cats fed in A.D. Barnes Park, Florida

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CATS INDOORS!

THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

Do you know where your cat is?



Each year, thousands of outdoor cats are killed by cars or die from disease. Hundreds of millions of birds and other animals are killed by free-roaming cats. Indoor cats live happier, healthier, longer lives.

For more information
www.abcbirds.org



CATS INDOORS!
The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats



**Feral
Kittens
Suffer
outdoors**



Female California Quail and Chicks

ABC is grateful to the following for the use of photos:



Jeannette Akers
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Molly Whitney

