

OUR DOMESTIC ANIMALS

LET'S TALK ABOUT ...

OUR CATS OUTDOORS

CATS AND BIODIVERSITY: FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE



Mass introduction of the domestic cat (*Felis catus*) by humans into ecosystems



In **Luxembourg**, there are estimated to be over **100 000 domestic cats** (including around 10,000 "stray", homeless cats)

Disruption of natural dynamics



CATS HUNT NOT JUST OUT OF HUNGER, BUT ALSO OUT OF INSTINCT.

IMPACT

A wide variety of prey

Main prey: Small mammals and birds



Increased hunting of vertebrate prey during **REPRODUCTION PERIODS**



Every year, domestic cats kill **BILLIONS OF SMALL ANIMALS** worldwide (1 cat can kill more than 100 animals a year)

Contribution to the **DECLIN** of many species



- Loss of **BIODIVERSITY**
- Cat-related **EXTINCTIONS** worldwide : **63 species** extinct, including **40 birds**



STRESS FOR PREY, behavioral changes and reduced fertility



Prey taken home = only part of the prey actually caught

→ The **DATA** is **UNDERESTIMATED**

Genetic crosses with the **WILD CAT** (*Felis silvestris*)



This endangered species could become extinct in certain regions



SOLUTIONS ?

FOR RESPONSIBLE OWNERS



ABOVE ALL: RESPECT YOUR CAT'S WELL-BEING!
OBJECTIVE: TO HELP IT CHANNEL ITS PREDATORY INSTINCTS.



STIMULATING YOUR CAT THROUGH PLAY AND PROVIDING QUALITY FOOD

Helps to limit predatory behavior



PHYSICAL BARRIERS TO RESTRICT CAT ACCESS TO CERTAIN AREAS

E.g. around a tree, a pond, a meadow...



CREATE AN ALERT FOR OTHER ANIMALS

E.g. collar with bell or bright colors, ultrasonic transmitter, etc.



LIMIT OUTDOOR ACCESS DURING TIMES WHEN WILDLIFE IS MOST ACTIVE

After rainfall, early in the morning, at dusk, during nesting season...



STERILIZE YOUR CAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Limits runaways and prevents overpopulation



Since 2018, castration has been mandatory in Luxembourg for any cat with outdoor access.

THESE SOLUTIONS ARE NOT UNIVERSAL: IT'S UP TO EACH INDIVIDUAL TO FIND WHAT'S BEST FOR THEIR CAT.

