

# Domestic Cats

**NOTE:** This page points out some unflattering facts about cats. It does not represent any bias or prejudice against cats or their behavior - it is purely educational.

**Scientific Classification:** Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Carnivora, Felidae, *Felis*, *F. catus*. All domestic cats are of the same species (*F. catus*). Whether they are stray or feral (wild), they were all once domesticated.

**Size & Markings:** All cats are predators and share the base instinct to hunt. They all have strong, flexible bodies, sharp retractable claws, and teeth adapted to killing. Cats see well in low light conditions, have excellent hearing and a well developed sense of smell. A typical adult weighs 10 pounds, stands 10" high and is about 18" long (without the tail). The color and texture of a cat's fur varies widely and depends on the breed and bloodline.

**Habitat:** Where there are people, there are cats. Scientists estimate that cats have been kept as pets for more than 3,600 years. The latest worldwide census shows there are in excess of 500 million cats.

**Life Span/ Reproduction:** Wild (feral) cats have an average life span of 4 years. Domesticated cats live an average of 13 years. Cats can have 2 to 3 litters per year, with each litter having 3 to 5 kittens. These are weaned in 6 to 7 weeks and are ready to reproduce in 5 to 10 months. Spaying/neutering is required to control populations.

**Food:** Cats hunt, kill and eat small mammals, birds, lizards, insects, fish, frogs and more. They are one of the world's most invasive species. Cats (mostly strays and feral cats) are believed to be directly responsible for the extinction of 33 animal species.

**Impact on Human Health:** Cat allergies have the biggest impact on human health. There are about 10 million people in the US that are allergic to cat dander and saliva. Rarely, bites and scratches can result in bacterial, parasitic and fungal infections.

**Impact on Surroundings:** Worldwide, cats may have been involved in the extinction of more bird species than any other cause, except habitat destruction. Cats dig in gardens, mark territories with urine, knock things off of shelves, scratch furniture and more. Some undesirable behaviors are learned and can be corrected with training. Others are instinctual and require more involved solutions to correct.

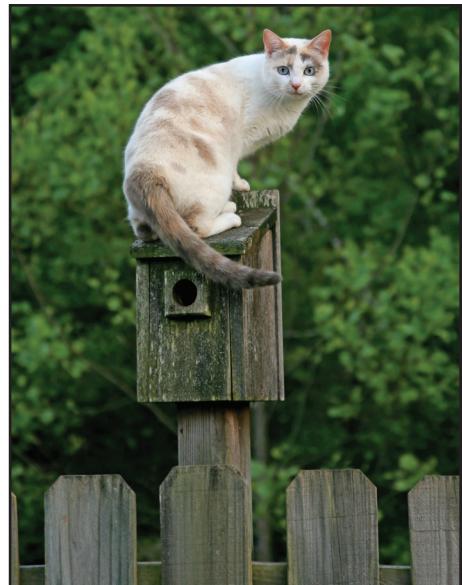
## Domestic, Stray and Feral Cat Control Methods:

**Access Barriers:** [Welded Wire Mesh](#), [Copper Blocker Access Control](#).

**Additional Products:** [Vent & Chimney Guards](#), [Live Capture Animal Traps](#), [Scarecrow Motion Activated Water Jet](#), [RoPel Animal Taste Repellent](#), [CatStop Ultrasonic Cat Deterrent](#), [Stay-Away Automatic Pet Deterrent](#).

**NOTE: It is your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations regarding the control of bird and/or animal species.**

Simply purchasing the best control does not guarantee success. Best results come from a thorough knowledge of both the species and the product or method you employ. If you have any questions, please contact Nixalite of America Inc and speak with a wildlife control product specialist.



No matter how domesticated they might be, cats are instinctual predators. Even when well fed, cats will hunt and kill prey.



You may not think of your cat as an invasive species. But it is, in fact, a kind of superpredator, camouflaged by its affinity for humans, its playfulness and ingratiating independence.



Cats have an uncanny ability to find the most valuable possession you have, climb it and mark it with urine. Cars and trucks are favorites.

Note: factual content from Wikipedia, US Humane Society, US Center for Disease Control, US Federal Register Codebook, and others.



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