The **cat** (*Felis catus*) is a [domestic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestication) [species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species) of small [carnivorous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnivorous) [mammal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cat#cite_note-Linnaeus1758-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cat#cite_note-MSW3fc-2) It is the only domesticated species in the family [Felidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felidae) and is often referred to as the **domestic cat** to distinguish it from the wild members of the family.

A cat can either be a house cat, a farm cat or a feral cat; the latter ranges freely and avoids human contact

Domestic cats are valued by humans for companionship and their ability to hunt rodent. About 60 cat breeds are recognized by various cat regseriers.