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