

## WHY SHOULDN'T WE LET OUR CATS OUTSIDE

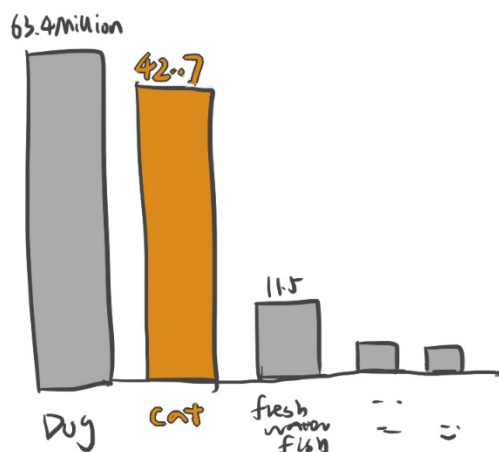
[Cats photo here]

Cat is one of the most popular pets in the state.

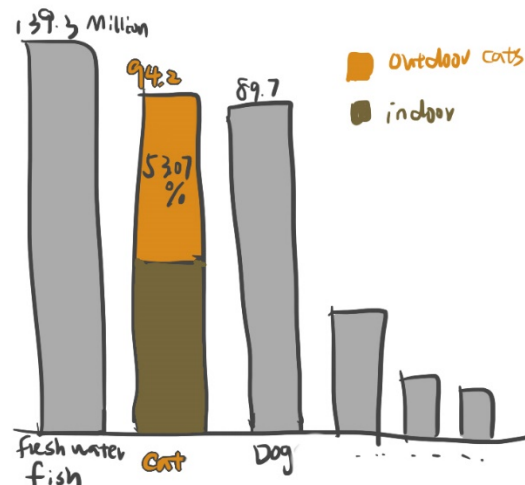
76% of U.S. household (85 million families) own a pet.

42.7 million U.S. households own, in total, **94.2 million** cats.<sup>1</sup> And **50 million (53.07%)** of them are allowed outside.

Number of U.S. Households That Own a Pet, by Type of Animal



Total Number Of Pets Owned In The United States, By Type Of Animal



Combined with **70 million** feral cats, there are **120 million outdoor cats** in the state.

As non-native predators, free-ranging and unowned cats raise a problem that they are killing billions of birds and mammals per year, taking a tremendous toll on the native wildlife in North America

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-pet-statistics>

(Introduce why cats are invasive species here)

Cats is known for its ability to hunt mice and rat and can help control their population. However, cats also hunt small prey, including wildlife, due to their natural instincts.

[Photos of cats killing animals/link to videos]

Cat predation can have huge impact on global ecosystem.



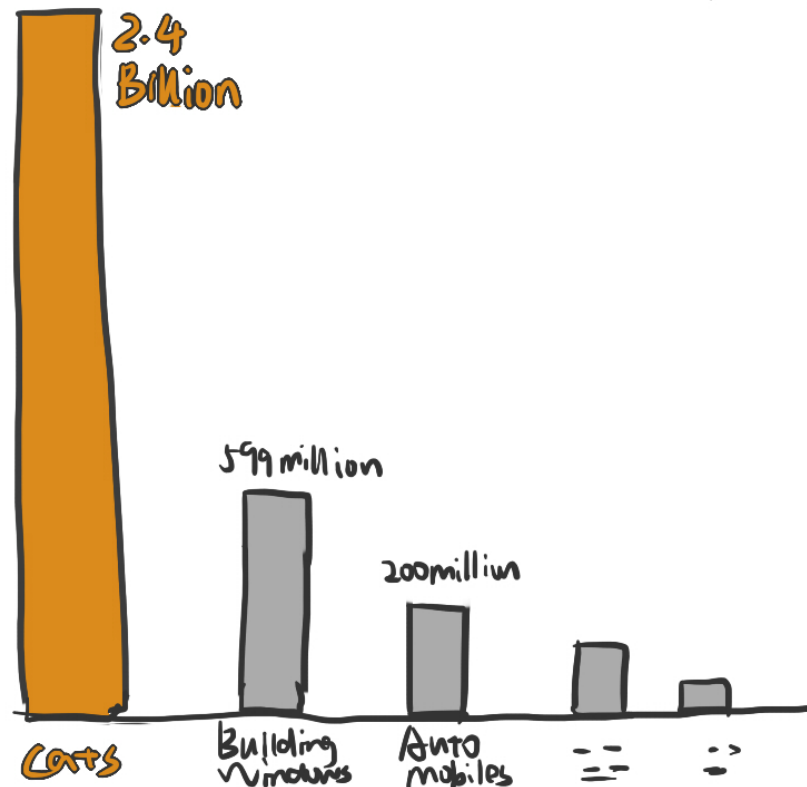
(add government policy here if I found anything)

The combination of cat and bird is especially a disaster.

Cats are by far the greatest cause of bird population declines in addition to habitat loss

Drivers of Bird Declines Other than Habitat Loss

(Estimated Number of Birds Killed per Year)



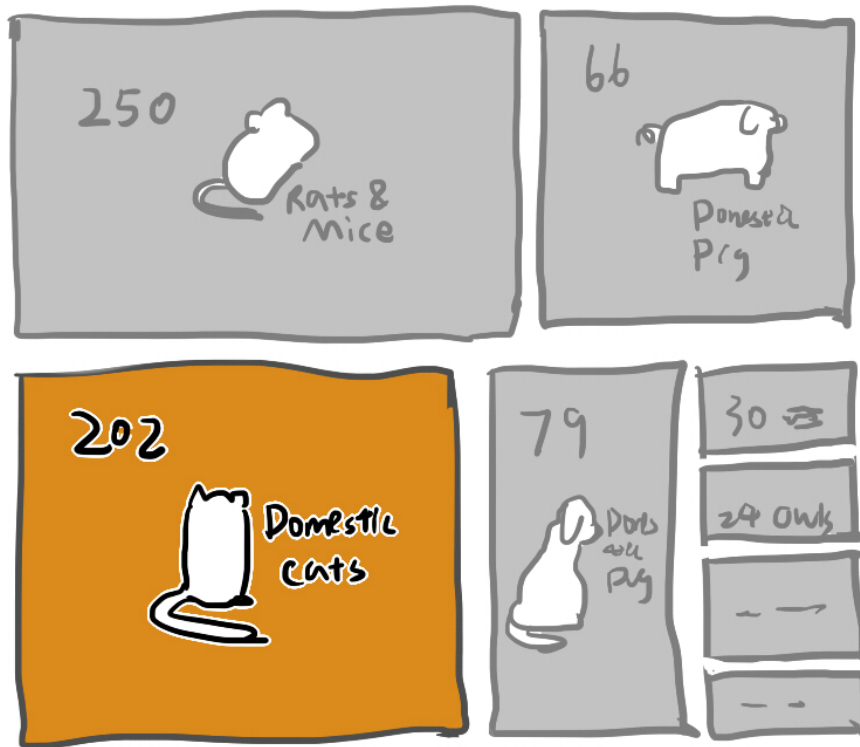
In the U.S., **2.4 Billion** of birds are killed annually by cats as estimated in the state of the birds 2014 report.<sup>2</sup>

Globally, cat threatened **202** bird species, ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://archive.stateofthebirds.org/state-of-the-birds-2014-report/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/BL\\_ReportENG\\_V11\\_spreads.pdf](https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/BL_ReportENG_V11_spreads.pdf)

Number of Globally Threatened Bird Species Affected  
by Invasive Species



Currently, species such as Piping Plover is at risk of extinction. If the problem of outdoor cats is not solved, they may finally extinct and disappear from the plant forever.

[piping plover photo]

Cats have contributed to **the extinction of 63** species of birds, mammals, and reptiles in the wild. Cats would continue to adversely impact a wide variety of other species if we cannot solve this problem.

## Solution:

### 1. Build Catios

Catios are cat-patios that are enclosed outdoor space that indoor cats have access to as an alternative.

No devices cats wear such as bell, collar, and bib can 100% limit their ability to hunt outside. By simply keeping cats indoors, we could prevent them from predating and killing birds or mammals living around the community.

### 2. Trap-Neuter-Return

Refrain from feeding feral or stray cats and get involved into Trap-Neuter-Return program.

A study of 2332 female cats revealed an average of **1.4 litters/year** with litters averaging **three kittens/litter**.

During an 11-year study of TNR at the University of Florida done by Julie Levy in 2003, the number of cats on campus declined by **66%**, with no new kittens being born after the first four years of operation

### 3. (Animal shelters & government policies)

## Call to Action:

### 1. Volunteer at/ donation to local shelters

(Pittsburgh: Humane Animal Rescue,  
Address/Tel/Email/website link)

2. Keep your cats indoor and refrain from feeding stray cats

Cats become a problem because humans brought them onto the continent. They are not a natural part of any ecosystem on the planet, and people have caused them to spread by failing to sterilize their pets or abandoning them into the wild.

The damage those cats do to native birds and other wildlife are our responsibility, and we should take actions and help save animal lives, by keeping our cat indoor.