



## Caring for your Cat – and Wildlife



Cats are lovely pets, but they are also a danger to wildlife if allowed to roam free, day or night. It has been estimated that a single domestic cat can kill up to 32 native animals per year on average. Even the most docile cat has a natural instinct to prey on these vulnerable animals.



Sydney Wildlife Rescue has the following suggestions to enable you to enjoy your cat, but also save our wildlife.



- Keep your cat indoors or contained in a cat run, at all times, but particularly at night.
- If your cat sometimes goes out, fit it with a collar and at least 2 bells, to warn wildlife.
- An excellent alternative for outside cats is the cat bib. This is attached to the collar, and it works by simply getting in the way when the cat tries to pounce on prey. For more details and to buy a cat bib, please go to [www.catbib.com.au](http://www.catbib.com.au)
- If you notice feral or stray cats in the area, call your Council, or the Cat Protection Society 02 9557 1011. Do not feed strays unless you intend to adopt and keep inside. If you are concerned about a neighbour's cat roaming, please try to advise your neighbour first, or call your Council who may be able to assist.
- Confining your cat inside is humane and safer for your cat. Most injuries and deaths in domestic cats are caused by cat and other animal attacks and vehicles, mostly at night. Indoor cats live longer than outdoor cats.
- As a cat owner you have a responsibility under the Companion Animals Act 1998. Please note Part 4, particularly Section 31. A wandering 'nuisance cat' can be seized and impounded if found to be damaging wildlife.



**Sydney Wildlife Rescue** – Rescue phone 24hrs 02 9413 4300

**Website:** [www.sydneywildlife.org.au](http://www.sydneywildlife.org.au) **Email:** [info@sydneywildlife.org.au](mailto:info@sydneywildlife.org.au)