**What you can do**

**If you find an injured songbird**
Contact a wildlife rehabilitator near you
www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildliferehabilitator

**How to keep your cat indoors**
Although it’s easiest to raise your cat to stay indoors as a kitten, it IS possible to train an adult!

To transition an outdoor cat to indoor life:
- Feed your cat indoors, keeping them inside for increasingly longer times after feeding
- Familiarize your cat to a scratching post and litter box first, and transition them slowly. To prevent injury to your cat, purchase a scratching post large enough to support the weight of your cat.
- Give cats stimulating toys to help foster their natural behaviours (e.g. hunting-based toys, a cat tree or jungle for climbing), play with your cat, and try giving them catnip
- Bring the outdoors inside
  - Provide a sunny window perch
  - Try growing cat grass
  - Provide hiding places
- Make the indoors comfortable
  - Keep the litter tray clean
  - Keep eating, drinking, litter, resting, and hiding places well-separated
  - Consider a second cat as a playmate

**Safe outdoor options:**
- Spay / neuter your cat
- Provide a screen-enclosed outside area
- Harness train them for outdoor walks
- Ensure your cat has an ID tag or microchip

**Check out these useful resources**

CatsandBirds.ca

Ontario SPCA and Humane Society
spca.bc.ca/pet-care/care-behaviour/cats

Cats Protection
goo.gl//QVfvPT

Petfinder
petfinder.com/cats/cat-care

Facebook
TakingCareofCatsandBirds

Twitter
@SafeCatSafeBird

**Is your cat safe outdoors?**

Know the risks and how to protect your pet, local birds, and our natural heritage.
As many as 40% of domestic cats spend time roaming outdoors, but these cats encounter many dangers and have significantly lower life expectancies.

**Risks to Cats Outdoors:**
- Being hit by a car
- Becoming lost
- Abuse
- Frostbite
- Parasites (e.g., fleas, ticks)
- Disease (e.g., feline leukemia, feline aids, heartworm, rabies)
- Poisoning (e.g., from garden plants, antifreeze, rat poison)
- Injury from fights with other animals
- Disease (e.g., feline leukemia, feline aids, heartworm, rabies)
- Poisoning (e.g., from garden plants, antifreeze, rat poison)
- Injury from fights with other animals

**Birds are at risk**

Birds are more than just a pretty song; they help to pollinate plants, disperse seeds, and control insect pests. Unfortunately, cats are the leading cause of direct, human-related songbird mortality. Vulnerable birds include many species at risk (e.g., Barn Swallow and Wood Thrush). Roaming cats have already contributed to the extinction of 34 species of birds.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
A bell on your cat's collar only reduces bird kills by 40-50%.

**Our Natural Heritage is at risk**

Cats are a non-native species in North America and can negatively impact local ecosystems. In addition to killing birds, cats prey on other wildlife including small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, and can also transmit diseases. Loss of wildlife impacts other species such as native carnivores, and destabilizes the food web. This problem is exacerbated by increasing numbers of stray cats.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Each domestic outdoor cat kills an estimated 4-18 birds and 8-21 small mammals per year.

**Your Cat is in Danger Outside**

As many as 40% of domestic cats spend time roaming outdoors, but these cats encounter many dangers and have significantly lower life expectancies.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
London by-laws forbid domestic pets to roam beyond the owner’s property.

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**Source:** Lacheretz et al. Revue Méd. Vét., 2002, 153, 12, 819-822