



Did you know?

❖ It is estimated there are over 9 million cats in the UK

Of course not all of them kill wildlife, and of those that do, the behaviour usually decreases after they are about two years old.

❖ A 5-month study estimated that 100 million animals were killed in that period by domestic cats

These included birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

❖ Many animals killed are in sharp decline

Some garden bird species have declined dramatically, including house sparrows, song thrushes and starlings. Although it is important to realise that there is no scientific proof that this is having any impact on bird populations UK-wide, following this leaflet's recommendations will help to reduce the pressure on them.

**Remember:
Bells, Birds & Bedtime!**

Where to get further information

RSPB:

www.rspb.org.uk/gardens/advice/cats/facts/aboutcats.asp

The Mammal Society:

www.abdn.ac.uk/~nhi775/cat_predation.htm

Wildlife in Brighton & Hove:

www.citywildlife.org.uk

Wildlife Advisory Group:

This advice note has been compiled by Brighton & Hove Council Wildlife Advisory Group (WAG), which was established by the Council in 1999 to advise on nature conservation issues. Membership of the WAG is voluntary and includes representatives from a wide range of local and national nature conservation organisations . . . and cat lovers!.

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Cats and Wildlife



We are a nation of animal lovers and cats are amongst our most popular pets.

But some have a wild side too . . .

❖ **Does your cat bring you presents of dead or injured birds and other small creatures?**

❖ **Are you concerned about the impact your cat may have on local wildlife?**

This leaflet provides helpful advice on how you (and your cat) can help conserve wildlife. Please read on . . .

What you can do to help

According to recent scientific research, there are several things cat owners can do to help reduce the impact their cats may be having on local wildlife.

❖ **BELLS:** Fit your cat with a properly-fitted quick release buckle collar with a bell or an electronic sonic device

Bells and sonic devices have been scientifically shown to reduce the number of birds and small mammals killed by cats by 30 - 50%. They have the benefit of working day and night!



❖ **BIRDS:** Provide food for birds in safe places

This will reduce the time they spend feeding in 'high risk' areas and therefore reduce their chance of being captured.



Bird tables and feeders need to be:

- Inaccessible & out of cats reach
- High (at least 150cm)
- In open areas
- Not directly next to dense cover
- Slippery - to deter climbing cats

❖ **BEDTIME:** Keep your cat in at night

Keeping cats indoors at night reduces the number of small mammals they kill. Keeping them in an hour before sunset, an hour after sunrise or in bad weather may also benefit birds.



Other points:

- Neutering or spaying your cat can help by controlling unwanted kittens
- Feeding your cat extra food doesn't stop its hunting instinct.
- Cats can wander very far –their impact goes further than your back garden.