

# OUR DOMESTIC ANIMALS

LET'S TALK ABOUT ...

# OUR CATS OUTDOORS

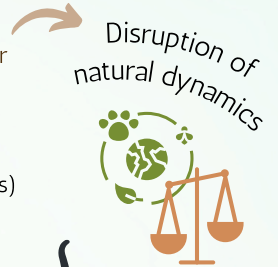
## CATS AND BIODIVERSITY: FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE



Mass introduction of the domestic cat (*Felis catus*) by humans into ecosystems



In **Luxembourg**, there are estimated to be over **100 000 domestic cats** (including around 10,000 "stray", homeless cats)



Disruption of natural dynamics



CATS HUNT NOT JUST OUT OF HUNGER, BUT ALSO OUT OF INSTINCT.

## IMPACT



### A wide variety of prey

Main prey: Small mammals and birds



Increased hunting of vertebrate prey during **REPRODUCTION PERIODS**



Every year, domestic cats kill **BILLIONS OF SMALL ANIMALS** worldwide (1 cat can kill more than 100 animals a year)

Contribution to the **DECLIN** of many species



- Loss of **BIODIVERSITY**
- Cat-related **EXTINCTIONS** worldwide : **63 species** extinct, including **40 birds**



**STRESS FOR PREY**, behavioral changes and reduced fertility



Prey taken home = only part of the prey actually caught

→ The **DATA** is **UNDERESTIMATED**

Genetic crosses with the **WILD CAT** (*Felis silvestris*)



This endangered species could become extinct in certain regions



## SOLUTIONS ?

FOR RESPONSIBLE OWNERS



**ABOVE ALL: RESPECT YOUR CAT'S WELL-BEING!**  
**OBJECTIVE: TO HELP IT CHANNEL ITS PREDATORY INSTINCTS.**



**STIMULATING YOUR CAT THROUGH PLAY AND PROVIDING QUALITY FOOD**

Helps to limit predatory behavior



**CREATE AN ALERT FOR OTHER ANIMALS**

E.g. collar with bell or bright colors, ultrasonic transmitter, etc.



**STERILIZE YOUR CAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Limits runaways and prevents overpopulation



**PHYSICAL BARRIERS TO RESTRICT CAT ACCESS TO CERTAIN AREAS**

E.g. around a tree, a pond, a meadow...



**LIMIT OUTDOOR ACCESS DURING TIMES WHEN WILDLIFE IS MOST ACTIVE**

After rainfall, early in the morning, at dusk, during nesting season...



THESE SOLUTIONS ARE NOT UNIVERSAL: IT'S UP TO EACH INDIVIDUAL TO FIND WHAT'S BEST FOR THEIR CAT.

