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Risk Perceptions about Outdoor Pet Cats in a Small City in the Interior of British Columbia

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Supplementary Material

Appendix I. Survey Outdoor Pet Cats and Wildlife

Survey

Outdoor Pet Cats and Wildlife

Exploring the Bidirectional Risks and the Value of Conservation BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of this study is to understand how people feel about outdoor pet cats in their neighborhoods, as well as how these cats and their interactions with wildlife, especially birds, may be managed. In this survey, when we refer to outdoor pet cats, we mean pet cats that spend at least some of their time outdoors.

Please note, you must be 18 years or older to complete the survey.

The results from this survey will contribute to understanding Kamloops residents' cat ownership behaviour and perception of risks for both pet cats and wildlife.

Your feedback is important to us. Your participation is voluntary and the survey should take about 15 minutes to complete. Your answers will be completely confidential.

Thank you for your participation.

If you wish to receive an executive summary of the results please feel free to contact my thesis supervisor, TRU Research Ethics Board Chair, or myself.

TRU Research Ethics Board approval (June 27, 2017). Contact information TRU-REB@tru.ca; 250.828.5000 Consent, Risk, Privacy and Right to Refuse

Consent: By completing the survey questionnaire, you the participant are providing your consent for the information you provided to be used for the purpose of this study.

The Stewardship Centre of BC (a subsidiary organization of Nature Canada) will also utilize data gathered from questions in this survey.

Risk: There are no risks associated with completing the survey.

Privacy and storage: No identifying information will be collected. Information you provide will be filed and stored in a cabinet at the office of the supervising faculty and after the conclusion of the study, kept for 5 years and then destroyed.

Right to refuse: You have the right to refuse or cease participation at any time during the survey. If you agree to participate and understand the purpose of the study, please select yes.

Yes

Section 1 - Wildlife

The first section of this survey is to understand, in general, how you feel about wildlife issues.

	Not at all interested	Somewhat interested	Interested	Quite interested	Very interested
Overall, how interested would you say you are in local wildlife issues?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Below are statements representing different ways that people might think about wildlife. Even if you don't know or care much about wildlife, we are interested in your opinions.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Humans should manage wildlife populations so that humans benefit.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I view all living things as part of one big family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife are on earth primarily for people to use.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife are like my family and I want to protect them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section 2 - Opinions about Outdoor Pet Cats

There is a wide range of opinions about outdoor pet cats. For example, some people feel that pet cats live happier, healthier lives outside, while others feel that outdoor pet cats have negative effects on wildlife and the environment. Even if you are uninterested or unaware of the topic of outdoor pet cats, we're interested in knowing how you feel about these issues.

	Not at all informed	Somewhat informed	Neutral	Informed	Very informed
How well informed are you on the topic of outdoor pet cats?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Not at all interested	Somewhat interested	Neutral	Interested	Very interested
How interested are you in outdoor pet cat issues in your neighborhood?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Very bad	Bad	Neutral	Good	Very good
Overall, do you think having outdoor pet cats in your neighborhood is good, bad, or neither?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Strongly disapprove	Disapprove	Neutral	Approve	Strongly approve
Please rate your overall level of approval of people allowing their cats to spend time outdoors in your neighborhood.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Below are statements representing different ways that people might think about outdoor pet cats. We are interested in knowing your opinions about outdoor pet cats in your neighborhood.

Outdoor pet cats in my neighborhood...

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
...are a nuisance (cause problems).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...are enjoyable to have around.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...play a useful role as predators in the natural environment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...are harmful to wildlife.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...disrupt the balance of nature.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...are at risk of being harmed while outdoors.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...live happier lives than cats that remain indoors.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...live shorter lives than cats that remain indoors.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...should be protected by their owners from possible harm while spending time outdoors.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...should be allowed to roam freely without restrictions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 3 – Outdoor Pet Cats and Risks to Wildlife

We are now interested in learning more about your opinions regarding the possible risks associated with pet cats spending time outdoors in your neighborhood. These could include risks that pet cats may pose to wildlife, people, and other pets, as well as risks that pet cats may encounter while they are outdoors.

How unlikely or likely do you think it is that the following would occur as a result of pet cats spending time outdoors in your neighborhood?

Pet cats spending time outdoors in my neighborhood would result in...

	Very unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Very likely
...a decrease in populations of mice or rats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...a decrease in populations of birds.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...a decrease in populations of small mammals (examples: squirrels or gophers).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats getting diseases from wildlife.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats getting diseases from other pets (examples: other cats, dogs).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats giving diseases to other pets.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats giving diseases to wildlife.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats giving diseases to humans.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats being injured or killed by coyotes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats being injured or killed by lynx.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats being injured or killed by cougars.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats being injured or killed by other pets (examples: other cats, dogs).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats being hit by cars.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats being lost or stolen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats damaging people's property (examples: going to the bathroom in yards, digging up gardens).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...cats injuring or killing small farm animals (example: chickens).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SECTION 4: Demographics

The following background information will be used to help make general conclusions about residents in your area. Your responses will remain completely confidential.

Do you own a cat?

Yes

No

If you have a cat, is it allowed to be outdoors? Skip question if you do not have a cat.

Yes

No

What is your gender?

Female

Male

Other

What is your age?

18-24 years old

25-39 years old

40-64 years old

65-79 years old

80 years or older

What is the highest level of education you have achieved?

Less than high school diploma

High school diploma or equivalent (GED)

Certificate, diploma, or trade

4-year university degree

Post-graduate degree

Do you rent or own your home?

Rent

Own

Please indicate the total number of individuals in your household (including yourself):

1

2

3

4

5 or more, please specify: _____

Do you have children below the age of 18 residing in your household?

Yes - please specify how many: _____

No

Are you or another member of your household retired?

Yes

No

Do you have a backyard?

Yes

No

Do you have a dog?

Yes

No

How many cats do you see roaming freely in your neighbourhood on average a day?

0

1

2

3

4

5 or more, please specify: _____

Which part of Kamloops do you currently live?

- Aberdeen
- Barnhartvale
- Brocklehurst
- Dallas
- Downtown
- Heffley Creek
- Juniper
- Lower Sahali
- Mount Dufferin
- North Shore
- Rayleigh
- Rose Hill/Knutsford
- Upper Sahali
- Valleyview
- West End
- Westmount/Batchelor Heights
- Westsyde
- None of the above.

If you answered "none of the above", please provide the part of Kamloops you currently live in the space below:

Please indicate your total annual pre - tax household income

- Less than \$40,000
- \$40,001 to \$80,000
- \$80,001 to \$120,000
- \$120,001 or more

Please provide any other comments you may have about outdoor pet cat issues in the space provided below.

Thank you for participating in this study!