



## LANE COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

AN OREGON CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 5086 • EUGENE, OREGON 97405

---

The Lane Audubon Society is asking for your assistance in our **Keep Cats Indoors Campaign**. There are over 90 million pet cats in the US, and about 65% of them roam outside at least part time. Domesticated cats are *not* a natural part of our ecosystem and are a significant contributor to the destruction of wildlife.

### **Cats Indoors: Good for Cats and Good for Birds**

- Outdoor cats suffer significant injury from automobiles and encounters with other cats, dogs, and predators. Disease, abscesses, parasites, poisoning, and theft are much more prevalent for outdoor cats.
- Free roaming cats live an average of 3-5 years, while exclusively indoor cats may live for 15-18 years.
- Biological research documents that free-roaming cats kill HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS of birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians each year.
- Stress is added to wildlife populations already struggling to survive habitat loss, pollution, and pesticides.
- Unfortunately, well-fed cats will hunt. We understand it is hard to accept this fact. Bells are not effective at protecting birds from cat predation. Even when cats let their victims go, they often die from wounds and infections.
- Cat populations do little to control pest rodent populations. House mice usually avoid capture by outdoor cats as a result of hiding in inaccessible places such as walls and attic spaces. Conversely, cats often kill native small rodents that are an important source of food for owls, hawks, and other wildlife.

There are several practical solutions to help address this issue: Start gradually extending indoor play time with your cat. Provide a window seat or an outdoor enclosure such as a screened porch. Consider leash training. Offer simple toys, plant kitty grass, and play with your cat each day. Kittens and young cats that are kept indoors rarely show a desire to venture out of doors. For more information, see the publication "How to Make Your Outdoor Cat a Happy Indoor Cat" from the American Bird Conservancy, available online at <http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/materials/outin.pdf>.

<http://www.laneaudubon.org>

**485-BIRD**

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this important effort.