



Background

- Complex issue with polarizing views
- Cats kill **100–350 million** birds in Canada/year
- Welfare issues (hit by a vehicle, ingest poison, contract disease)
- We don't know where they are going and what they are doing when they are outside

Methods

- Find participants through an online survey
- Citizen Science- give them a "Catcam package", determine with them the body condition score (BCS) and cat personality type
- Data analysis using GIS and R

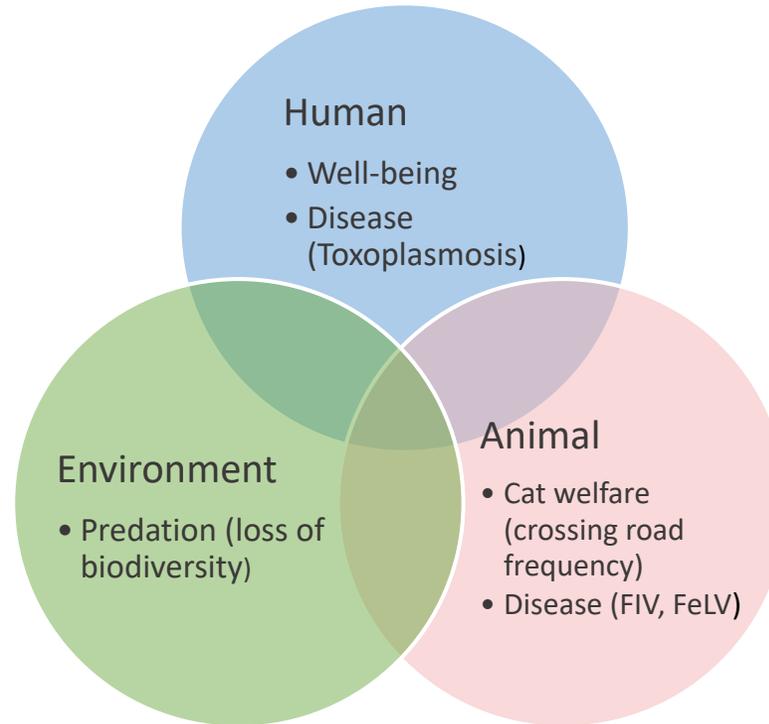
Objectives

Determine:

- The frequency in which cats engage in activities on the road. Are roads barriers?
- Estimate:
 - Home range size during the day and night
 - Habitat utilization during the day and night



Incorporation of One Health



Stakeholders

- Cat owners- citizen science approach
- Veterinarians
- Animal welfare/shelter workers
- Researchers in:
 - Integrative Biology
 - Animal behaviour

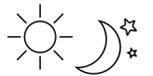


Discussion

What factors influence home range and habitat use?

Hypotheses related to individual cats:

- Age
- Sex
- Day vs night outdoor access
- Hours of outdoor access
- BCS
- Cat personality



Future Work

- What other risks are they engaging in
- What are they capturing
- Where are they hunting
- What individual characteristics influences other risks and predation events?

Key Points

- Cats are one of the largest contributors to bird mortality in Canada, can spread various spread diseases, and face many welfare risks while outside
- We need more information on where cats are going and what risks they face to understand the cons/benefits
- Predicting what factors influences movement can help stakeholders make informed decisions



Special thanks to our cats!



Buddy



Beau



Philly

Significance

- First study of its kind in Canada
- Can help stakeholders make informed decisions about policies and management actions
- Help owners make more informed decisions about outdoor access

Help owners, help cats, which will ultimately help the environment



Contact Information

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Funding

