

Free-roaming bylaws are critical for cat overpopulation and feline welfare



Cat-associated diseases



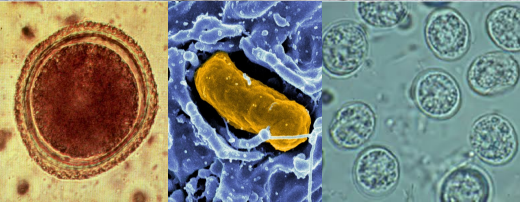
Direct exposure - Rabies, Cat Scratch Disease, plague

Diseases in feces:

Helminths: Roundworm, tapeworm, hookworm

Protozoan: *Toxoplasma gondii*, Giardia

Bacteria: Salmonella, Campylobacter, Leptospirosis (urine)



Environmental load:

Annual cat fecal load - 70, 000 cats - 1 ton feces per year - $700 \text{ cats} \times 2 \text{ million oocysts/cat} = 1.4 \text{ billion oocysts/day}$

Preferred latrines:

Sandy, loose soil - playgrounds, parks and gardens



Management of feral cat populations

Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) is logistically intensive

- Consistent removals required
- Needs 75-90% sterilization
- Inefficiency = suffering
- Support feral cat enclosures and adoptions

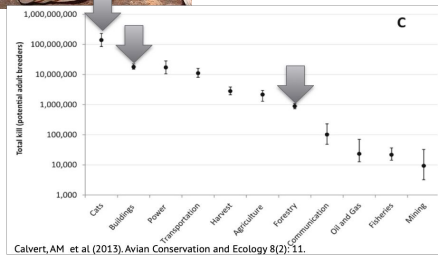
Counterproductive Messaging

- Sends a message that releasing outdoors is humane
- Increased public dumping of unowned cats
- Uncertain liability implications





Biodiversity Damage - Wildlife are not just a number



Cats are the top source of direct bird mortality in Canada
Canada: 100-350 million birds. Edmonton: 300,000-2 million

Wildlife injuries: Eviscerations, fractures, crushing injuries, amputations, sepsis, 22 % survival rates, secondary death of orphaned young

Predation of endangered species - Little brown bats

Protected area: Encroachment into protected areas destroys conservation value.



Potential Actions by the city



1. No exemptions for any ownership of cat type or land
2. Reliance on accountable experts - scientists, CVMA
3. Science-based public education to insure informed consent and support
4. Support to humane societies instead for feral cat sanctuaries and public education