

Why neutering and vaccinating your cat is important

On farms, cats help to control pests. At home, they are much loved pets. But in the wider countryside they can sometimes transmit disease, prey on wildlife and, specifically, be a serious threat to the survival of the highly endangered Scottish wildcat.

Neutering cats keeps the population down and stops interbreeding with Scottish wildcats.

Vaccination stops cats from getting, and passing on, diseases.

These two simple actions make a real difference.



If you own a cat, or have cats on your farm or land, you can help protect the Scottish wildcat by making sure they are neutered and vaccinated. Cats Protection can help with the cost of neutering.

Photos ©: Laurie Campbell; Lorne Gill/SNH; Hamilton Kerr, Kirriemuir; Elspeth Stirling

Help with neutering

If you're a farmer or other land manager with unneutered cats on your property, Cats Protection can help. They will capture the cats, take them to be neutered and return them. For cat owners on a low income, Cats Protection also has a voucher scheme to help with the cost.

Further information from Cats Protection
www.cats.org.uk Freephone: 03000 12 12 12

This initiative is supported by:

- Aberlour Veterinary Centre, Aberlour
Tel: 01340 871385
- The Crofts Veterinary Centre, Brechin
Tel: 01356 622167
- Harbit & Ryder, Pitlochry
Tel: 01796 472201
- Morven Veterinary Practice, Alford and Ballater,
Tel: 019755 62339
- The Robson Veterinary Hospital, Laurencekirk
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- Strathspey Veterinary Centre, Grantown-on-Spey and Kingussie
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- Thrums Veterinary Group, Kirriemuir
Tel: 01575 572643
- Woodside Veterinary Group, Torphins and Aboyne
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For a large print version of this leaflet, please contact The Cairngorms Wildcat Project.
Tel: 01479 873535.



Cats in the Countryside



Published by
The Cairngorms Wildcat Project

Neutering and vaccinating domestic cats to save the Scottish wildcat

Help save the Scottish wildcat

There are only about 400 wildcats left in Scotland. Many of these live in the Cairngorms National Park.



The many unneutered domestic and feral cats in our countryside can mate with Scottish wildcats and have hybrid kittens. They also carry diseases that can kill Scottish wildcats. If this continues, very soon the Scottish wildcat will become extinct.

With only 400 Scottish wildcats left, the neutering and vaccination of domestic cats is vital to their survival. Every trip to the vet counts.

For more information on the Scottish wildcat:

Visit www.highlandtiger.com

Or phone **The Cairngorms Wildcat Project**
01479 873535

Other benefits

As well as helping to protect one of Scotland's most iconic and endangered animals, there are other good reasons to get cats neutered and vaccinated:

- Fewer domestic cats in the wider countryside will reduce predation on birds and other wildlife.
- Neutered cats won't develop tumours of the testicles, ovaries or uterus.
- Neutered cats are less likely to roam and to fight, therefore reducing the risk of them getting injured and spreading disease.
- Neutered cats are less likely to call noisily or spray.
- Fewer kittens around farms reduces the risk of an outbreak of toxoplasma – a parasite that can cause abortions in sheep.

Don't worry – neutered cats are still good mousers. And if you want a pet cat, Cats Protection always has lots of cats looking for a good home.



“As a vet I understand the important role that neutering plays with our pets. I would urge everyone who owns a cat, and is not intending to breed from it, to have it neutered – especially if you live in the realm of the Scottish wildcat.”

Joe Inglis, TV vet



Help save the Scottish wildcat
from extinction