

SPECIES

Scottish Wildcat Action

**Protecting the UK's only remaining native cat**

The Scottish wildcat is critically endangered through hybridisation with domestic cats, disease and accidental killing because distinguishing wildcats from hybrid or feral cats can be difficult. Recent data collected by Scottish Wildcat Action indicates that there may be fewer than 100 wildcats left in the wild. Hybridisation is such a problem that it's likely all remaining Scottish wildcats have some domestic ancestry. Recent genetic data indicate that the captive Scottish wildcat population has very low domestic ancestry.

Scottish Wildcat Action is a partnership project of 20 organisations including leading Scottish wildcat experts. The project works in five priority areas, two of which are located in the Cairngorms National Park, to conserve the remaining wildcats, alongside establishing a viable population that can be used for releases in the future. Work includes:

1. neutering and vaccinating feral cats and obviously hybridised cats
2. encouraging cat owners to neuter, vaccinate and microchip their pet cats
3. public education on Scottish wildcat conservation issues
4. encouraging wildcat-friendly land management practices

Over the course of the work to date, the project has neutered 40 feral and hybridised cats, within the two priority areas in the National Park, and has created artificial den sites in the Angus Glens, which will be monitored for use by wildcats.

We encourage people to report possible wildcat sightings to us via the project website.

**Find out more ...**

- [www.scottishwildcataction.org](http://www.scottishwildcataction.org)
- **Facebook** and **Twitter** and **Instagram**
- **Guide to camera trapping Scottish Wildcats**



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