

Young birds, lizards, possums and other newborn wildlife are easy prey for cats

As young birds, lizards, bandicoots and possums venture from their nests and caves in early summer in their usual vulnerable and generally defenseless state, The Sydney Metro Wildlife Service remind cat owners that even the most well-fed domestic cats pose serious threats to these small and newly born wildlife. At the same time, free-roaming pets also face dangers that can injure or kill them.

“Cats and other predators probably kill more wildlife this time of the year than any other because newborn prey not only don’t have any physical defenses but they also have not fully developed the danger awareness regarding predators that comes with time,” said Bird Conservancy Vice President Mike Parr. “This is the most important time of the year for cat owner’s to restrict outdoor activities of their pet,” he said.

“It’s also a common misconception that domestic cats can live easily outdoors,” says Michael Hutchins, Ph.D., Executive Director of TWS. “Well-meaning owners often think it’s okay to let them roam because cats seem independent by nature. And while they don’t always need the same care as dogs, the truth is dramatically different.” Free-roaming or feral cats are at risk of early death or serious injury due to diseases, cars, poisons and predators such as dogs and coyotes.

Outdoor cats typically live less than five years, whereas cats kept exclusively indoors can live to be 17 years or older.

Cats kill baby animals (Brian Murphy/Walnut Creek)

Cats and Wildlife!

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