



CATS & WILDLIFE

A Guide by Neville's Helping Paw

Exploring the outdoors is great for feline enrichment, but our local wildlife needs protection too. Here is how you can find a balance.

Protecting Local Wildlife

The Bell Factor: A quick-release collar with a bell can reduce the successful hunting of birds by up to 50%.

High-Protein Diet: Studies show that feeding a meat-rich diet can reduce the urge to hunt by up to 36%.

Time Your Outings: Keep cats indoors at dawn and dusk, which are peak feeding times for birds and mammals.

Object Play: 5–10 minutes of daily predatory play with toys (like feather wands) satisfies hunting instincts.

Garden Safety Tips

If you have bird feeders, place them in the open, at least 2 metres away from cover (bushes/fences) where a cat could hide and ambush.

Outdoor Alternatives

- **Catios:** An enclosed outdoor patio allows cats to enjoy the fresh air and sights without any risk to wildlife.
- **Leash Training:** Walking your cat on a harness allows for supervised exploration.
- **Cat-Proof Fencing:** Specialised toppers can keep your cat within the safety of your own garden.

Found an injured animal? If your cat brings home a bird or small mammal, please contact a local wildlife rescue immediately. Even if there are no visible wounds, bacteria in cat saliva can be fatal to wildlife.