

Cat Fact or Fiction?

Cats and wildlife can live together: FICTION

An estimated **81 vulnerable and endangered species** are threatened by cats.

A well fed cat will not hunt: FICTION

Research indicates that on average a pet cat kills **25 native animals per year**.

It's cruel to keep your cat indoors: FICTION

Cats can live very contently in a suitable enclosed area.

Cats that don't roam live longer: FACT

On average, desexed cats that don't roam live **4 times longer** than free-roaming cats.



For further information please contact:

Tiwi Land Council
PO Box 38545
WINNELLIE NT 0821

Ph.: 08 8970 9373 Fax: 08 8978 3698

tiwilcnrm@bigpond.com

This project was supported by funding from the Australian Government's National Environmental Research Program.



Developed with assistance from Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities



Cats and Wildlife:

Caring for Both.



-A guide to help you enjoy your cat and protect the native wildlife of the Tiwi Islands-



Tiwi Land Council

Updated March 2026

Welcome to the Tiwi Islands!

The Tiwi Islands are unique. Their geographical isolation has protected the islands' natural environment from many of the weeds and feral animals found on the mainland. However, one feral animal that has found its way to the Tiwi Islands is the cat.

The Tiwi Land Council needs your help to ensure feral cat populations remain at a controllable level, and that domestic cats do not pose a threat to our native wildlife.

Together we can ensure
the Tiwi Islands'
biodiversity is protected.



Cats are both pets and predators

As skilled hunters feral
cats can kill 5-30
animals a night

Feral cats and free-roaming domestic cats have a devastating impact on our native wildlife. Small mammals, birds and lizards are an easy catch for these skilled hunters. Even cats that are well fed will instinctively hunt. Prey that is not killed is likely to die later from shock or infection.



How can you help protect Tiwi

Don't bring cats to the Tiwi Islands

Cats are prohibited from travelling to the Islands and new residents need to leave their cats on the mainland.

Desex your cat

If have a cat on the islands, **PLEASE** ensure it is desexed.

- Desexed cats are less likely to wander, are less prone to fighting, and tend to live longer, healthier lives.
- Desexing also prevents unwanted litters that contribute to feral cat populations

Prevent your cat from roaming

This is beneficial to both cats and wildlife

- Cats that are prevented from roaming are protected from injuries, diseases and snake bites.
- Please prevent your cat from roaming both day and night. Prey such as lizards and birds are mostly active during the day while small mammals are mostly active at night.

Don't dump unwanted kittens in the bush

Dumped or unwanted kittens can become wild or feral and will prey heavily on wildlife.