

The
COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



PUBLICATIONS:

The Condor,

A Quarterly Journal

of Ornithology

established in 1899 and

Studies in Avian Biology,

devoted to papers

of unusual length,

established in 1900

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PASSED BY THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, MAY 1997

A RESOLUTION:

PUBLIC POLICIES REGARDING FERAL AND FREE-RANGING CATS

WHEREAS the feral/domestic cat (*Felis catus*) is an introduced, predatory species, and

WHEREAS feral and free-ranging domestic cats exist in significant densities throughout most areas populated by humans, with reliable estimates in the millions for the U.S. and in the billions globally, and

WHEREAS feral and free-ranging domestic cats are exceptional and prolific predators of small mammals, song birds, small reptiles, large amphibians and large insects, and

WHEREAS feral and free-ranging domestic cats are estimated to kill millions of small mammals and birds nationwide each year, and

WHEREAS a significant cause of much of the modern decline of global, regional, and local biodiversity has been directly linked to the presence of feral and free-ranging domestic cats, and

WHEREAS feral and free-ranging domestic cats have been implicated in the extinction of numerous species around the world, and

WHEREAS few governments have regulations or public policies that restrict or control feral and free-ranging domestic cats, and

WHEREAS The Cooper Ornithological Society is concerned with the well-being of North American avifauna;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Cooper Ornithological Society urges local, state, and federal entities to:

- (1) prohibit the feeding and caring of feral cats and their colonies;
- (2) mandate the capture of feral cats, particularly the members of feral cat colonies, by animal control officers, humane societies and others; and
- (3) restrict and regulate the range of movement of domestic cats out of doors.