



Farm cats' plight

● Cats have lived on farms and smallholdings for hundreds of years. Most are not regarded as pets, but as working animals that are expected to earn their living by keeping yards and outbuildings free of mice and rats.

● Many farms give little in the way of comfort or care for the resident mousers.

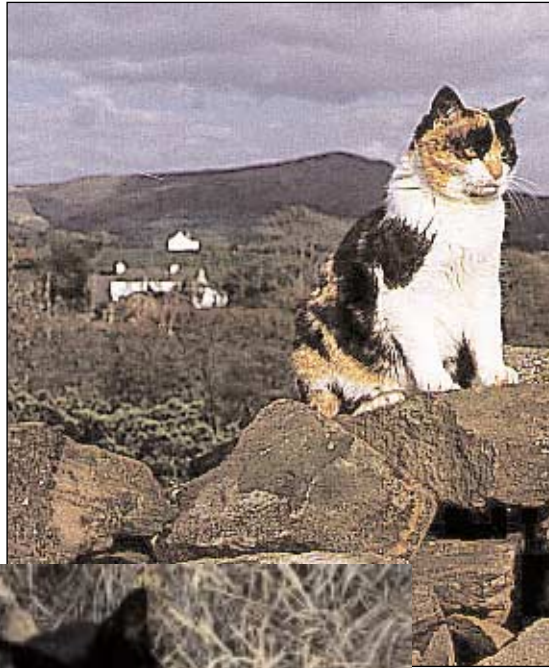
● Kittens are usually taken to farms to keep the mice population down. The kittens grow quickly and produce kittens themselves. Often these are born out of sight, not handled, and grow up wild or feral. Within a year, these too are breeding and before long there is a rapidly increasing colony of wild cats and kittens.

● Mother cats that are nursing kittens need a lot of food to keep healthy and produce thriving offspring. Unfortunately, farm cats have to survive on too little food and are expected to supplement their diet with vermin.

● Undernourished cats and kittens are easy prey to disease and in-breeding weakens them further. Starving cats who urgently need food and attention become too ill and weak to catch the slowest mouse.

The solution

The farm cat, like any other animal, needs regular food and proper attention when ill or injured. Cats should be regularly wormed too, particularly if they are active hunters.

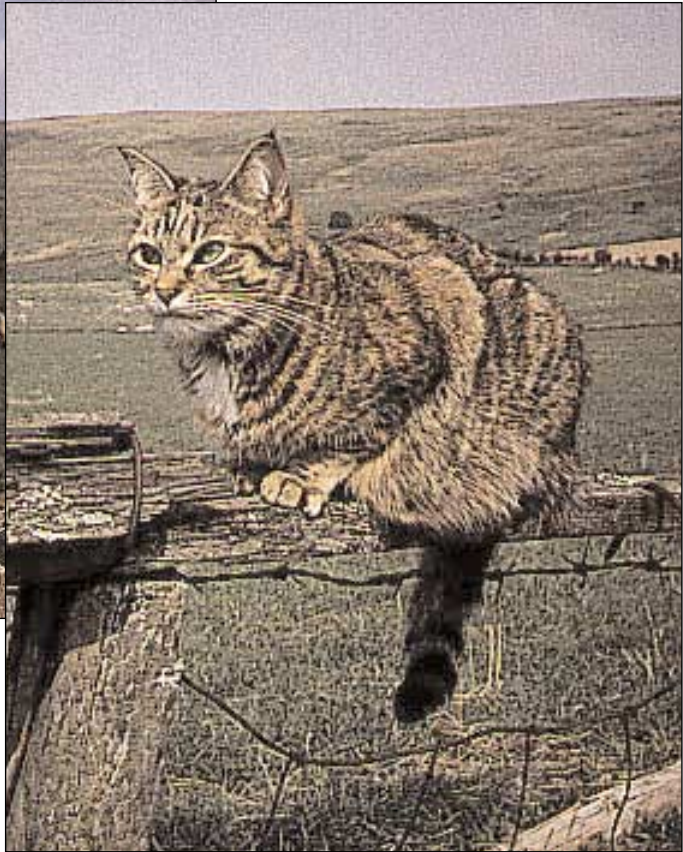
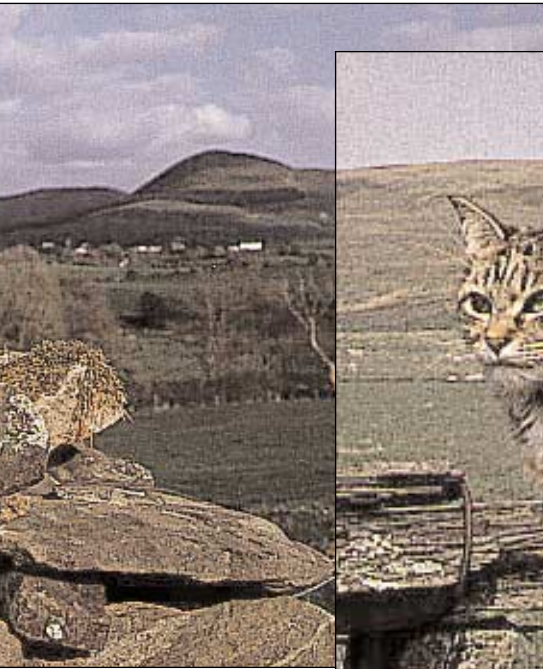


Trapping:

● Many farm cats are wild or semi-domestic and are wary of humans. They are often difficult to catch and handle. Farmers can borrow special traps from their local Cats Protection Branch in which to catch their cats for neutering or other veterinary treatment.

Neutering:

● It is estimated that a female cat can, in just five years, be responsible for 20,000



descendants.

- Castrating male cats and spaying female cats to prevent breeding will result in happier, healthier cats and keep the colony to a manageable number.

- Male and female kittens can be neutered from six months old, or as advised by a veterinary surgeon. Adult cats can be operated on at any age.

- It is a fact that the well-fed neutered cat makes a better mouser because it hunts for fun rather than for survival. Unhampered by kittens, the spayed farm cat will often hunt all day, whereas the nursing mother cat will spend most of her time with her young in their nest.

Finally...toxoplasmosis

Farmers are sometimes concerned that

their cats are the source of toxoplasma which can cause abortion in sheep. Cats become immune to toxoplasma approximately two weeks after becoming infected and are then no threat to pregnant sheep. The risk is only from new, susceptible cats and kittens.

Neutering the farm cat colony ensures a stable, immune, controlled group of cats, who then keep the toxoplasma-carrying rodents to a minimum. They also keep away any outside cats. So remember:

- Neuter your farm cats
- Feed and worm them regularly
- Ensure they receive help when sick or injured

Membership form for Cats Protection

Membership Rates

Please enrol me as a:

Life Member £200
Annual UK Member £12
Annual Senior Member £6
Annual Cool Cats Member £5
(Recommended age 16 and under)

Europe £18
USA/Canada \$48
Elsewhere £24

Donation £

Total Enclosed £

Your details:

Membership No. (if known) _____

Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms. Other (please specify) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Date of Birth: _____

All membership includes a free copy of the bi-monthly journal *The Cat*, except Cool Cats members who receive six copies of *Cool Cats* annually

Four ways to pay:

1 By Cheque/Postal Orders payable to
The Cats Protection League

2 By Direct Debit
please contact us at the address below
for a full membership leaflet

3 By Credit/Debit card freephone hotline:
0800 917 CATS (0800 917 2287)

4 By Credit / Debit Card:

I wish to pay by VISA/MASTERCARD/DELTA/SWITCH

Card Number:

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Please send all forms to:
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17 Kings Road Horsham
West Sussex RH13 5PN

FC



17 Kings Road Horsham
West Sussex RH13 5PN
Helpline: 08702 099 099
(Calls charged at national rate)
Fax: 08707 708 265

E-mail: cpl@cats.org.uk
Web: www.cats.org.uk
Charity No. 203644
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