

The Secret Lives of Doon's Cats



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THE SECRET LIVES OF DOON'S CATS

Have you ever wondered what your pet cat does all day? This comic is based on a cool project where we learned about how cats in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, spend their time and how they affect birds in the city.

We visited 445 homes between August 2023 and November 2024, and guess what? Out of these, 95 families had cats as pets! We asked cat owners fun questions about their cats—like what they eat, how often they play, and even the types of "gifts" (prey) they bring home.

This comic shares some of the exciting things we found out and gives tips on how we can take care of our cats in a way that helps protect the birds and other wildlife around us.

Scan the code to know more about this amazing project!





What is your
Superpower

I look
Cute.!

DID YOU KNOW?

Your pet cat, also called a domestic cat, is part of the big cat family! There are around 41 types of cats in the world. Most of them are wild cats, but our cuddly domestic cat is a bit different. Even though they're the smallest in the family, they share a lot with their bigger wild cousins, like lions and tigers!

And here's something fun: people LOVE watching cats! From cute videos to funny tricks, millions of people enjoy cat content online every day. Cats are so popular that they're one of the top things people search for on the internet!



TAKE CARE
KITTY

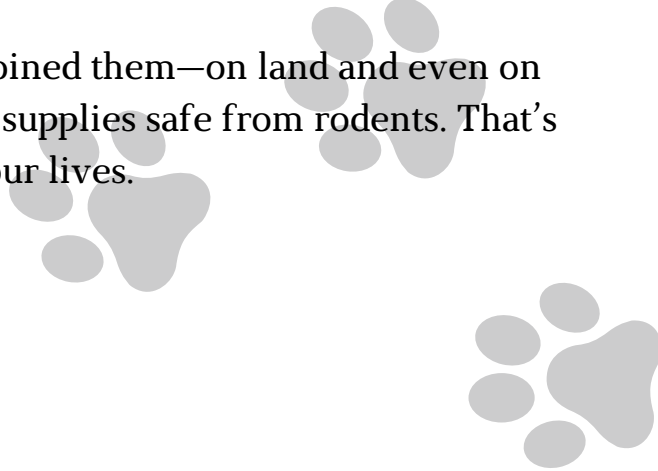


HOW DID CATS BECOME OUR FRIENDS?

A long, long time ago—about 9,000 to 10,000 years—cats started living with people. It all began in the Fertile Crescent, a region in the Middle East where some of the first human civilizations grew. People started farming there, growing grains and storing them in big containers.

But guess what? Those grains attracted sneaky mice and rats. And where there are rats, cats are never far behind! Wild cats came to hunt the pests, and people liked having them around because they protected the food.

As people traveled and traded across the world, cats joined them—on land and even on boats! Cats became helpful companions, keeping food supplies safe from rodents. That's how cats spread across the globe and became part of our lives.





THE SECRET WORLD OF CATS

Cats are cute, cuddly, and so playful! Over time, they've become a big part of our families. Many cat owners say their cats bring them joy and purpose every day. But have you ever wondered about the secret lives of your furry friends?

For example, why do cats sometimes bring “gifts” like birds or rats to their humans? What's going on in their little minds?

To find out, we talked to 95 families who had a pet cat in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, and learned about 202 cats! This comic shares the fascinating things we discovered about their habits, behaviors, and, of course, their secret adventures.





This one
is CRUNCHY.

CATS: PLAYFUL BUT POWERFUL HUNTERS

Cats love to play, chase, and pounce—it's part of what makes them so fun to watch! Play and exercise are super important for keeping cats happy and healthy. But when cats play outdoors, their hunting instincts can sometimes cause trouble for nature.

Did you know that in the United States, outdoor cats are responsible for the deaths of about 2.4 billion birds every year? That's a big number!

In our study, we found that more than half of the cats were seen hunting. And here's something surprising: they hunted birds more often than anything else! Birds were followed by rodents, reptiles, insects, amphibians, and even squirrels.

This comic is here to show you how we can care for our cats while also protecting the amazing wildlife around us.



COME ON
BIRDS...
PLAY.





CARING FOR CATS AND WILDLIFE

We all love the beauty of the wild and the joy our furry friends bring us. But how can we make sure our cats stay happy while also protecting the amazing wildlife around us?

The answers are in our survey! We learned some great tips and solutions from cat owners who want to leave a healthy, wildlife-friendly world for future generations.

Keep reading to discover what we found—and how you can help both your cat and the world around you!



WANT TO
EAT OUT?

NO!

WHAT DO CATS EAT?

Cats, like their wild cousins, are strict carnivores. This means they need a lot of protein to stay healthy and full of energy. A high-protein diet is super important for them!

Our survey found something interesting: cats that ate home-cooked food were more likely to hunt than those who ate store-bought cat food or meat. And guess what? Cats who ate mostly meat were the least active hunters. This shows how a protein-rich diet can help keep your cat healthy and happy without needing to hunt.



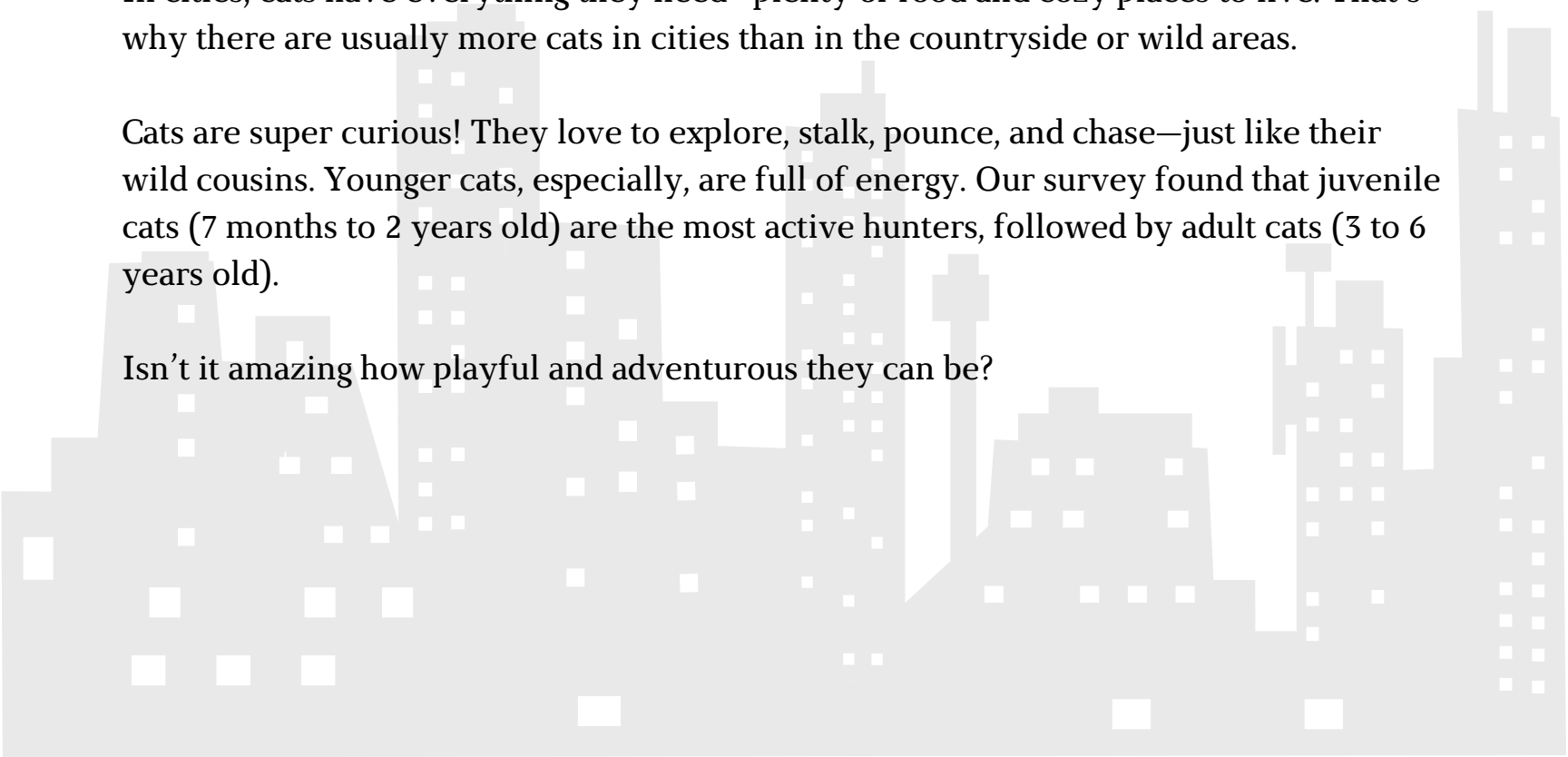
LET'S HAVE
LUNCH..
KIDS..

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CATS IN CITIES?

In cities, cats have everything they need—plenty of food and cozy places to live. That's why there are usually more cats in cities than in the countryside or wild areas.

Cats are super curious! They love to explore, stalk, pounce, and chase—just like their wild cousins. Younger cats, especially, are full of energy. Our survey found that juvenile cats (7 months to 2 years old) are the most active hunters, followed by adult cats (3 to 6 years old).

Isn't it amazing how playful and adventurous they can be?



STOP NOW!
LET'S EAT...



PLAYTIME KEEPS CATS HAPPY—AND WILDLIFE SAFE!

Did you know that playing with your cat at home can keep them from wandering outside to hunt? Experts say spending 15–20 minutes playing with your cat twice a day helps them stay healthy and happy.

Playtime is super important! It helps cats stay fit, keeps their minds sharp, and lets them use their natural hunting instincts in a safe way.

Our survey showed that cats who spent more time playing with their owners hunted less. So, by having fun with your cat, you're also helping protect wildlife. Isn't that a win-win?





OUR BABY
IS CUTE
AS YOU.

VET

WHY IS NEUTERING CATS IMPORTANT?

Did you know that neutering your cat can help them live a healthier and happier life? Neutered cats are less likely to get sick, behave aggressively, or roam too far from home. This also helps keep the cat population under control and reduces homelessness for our furry friends.

Our survey found something interesting: neutered cats hunt less than non-neutered ones. This means neutering doesn't just help your cat—it also helps protect wildlife by reducing hunting.

Taking care of your cat in this way helps both your pet and the world around them!



I WANT
A CAT..
DADU!

ADOPT
CAT

A stylized illustration of a woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a grey top and yellow pants, sitting on a light blue armchair. She is holding a small orange cat in her arms. A white dog is sitting next to her on the chair. In the background, there is a potted plant on a small wooden table and some framed pictures on the wall.

A HAPPY HOME FOR EVERY CAT!




Every pet deserves a safe and loving home. By keeping our cats indoors or creating cat-proof spaces, we can make sure they stay safe and don't harm the wildlife around us. Being a responsible pet owner means not letting cats stray, ensuring they're well-fed, neutered, and entertained at home.

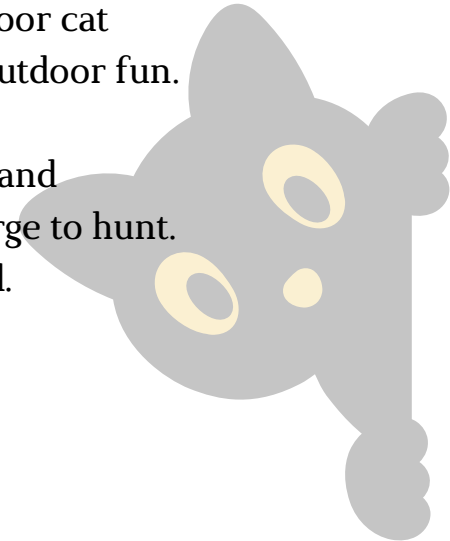
When we take these steps, we not only keep our furry friends healthy and happy but also protect birds, small animals, and other wildlife. A little care goes a long way in creating harmony between pets and nature.

Together, we can help our cats live their best lives while preserving the natural world for future generations.

CREATING A SAFE AND HAPPY WORLD FOR CATS AND WILDLIFE

AS RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS, WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE FOR BOTH OUR FURRY FRIENDS AND THE WILDLIFE AROUND US. HERE'S HOW:

-  **Adopt, Don't Shop:** When you adopt a cat from a shelter, you're giving them a second chance at a happy life and helping reduce the stray population.
-  **Keep Cats Indoors or in Cat-Proof Spaces:** Letting cats roam freely can put them in danger and harm local wildlife. Build a "catio" (an outdoor cat enclosure) or train your cat to enjoy walks on a leash for safe outdoor fun.
-  **Provide Plenty of Play and Enrichment:** Toys, scratching posts, and interactive games keep your cat entertained and reduce their urge to hunt. Spending time playing with your cat also strengthens your bond.



CREATING A SAFE AND HAPPY WORLD FOR CATS AND WILDLIFE



Stay Up-to-Date on Vet Care: Regular vet visits, vaccinations, and neutering are key to keeping your cat healthy and reducing the stray population.



Use Microchips and ID Tags: These simple tools ensure your cat can always find their way back home if they get lost.



Learn About Local Wildlife: Understanding the birds, insects, and animals in your area helps you better protect them while caring for your pet.



By following these steps, we can create a world where our pets are safe, wildlife is protected, and everyone—both humans and animals—thrives together.

SCRIBBLE YOUR PET!



YOUR PET'S STORY



My pet's name is _____



Its favorite activity is _____



The funniest thing it has ever done is _____



Feel free to write more





