

About the KittyCams project:

A team of researchers partnered up in 2009 to have a look at the activities of free-roaming cats using innovative new technology.

Project collaborators included wildlife biologists, veterinarians and National Geographic Remote Imaging engineers. The team monitored 60 pet cats roaming in suburban Athens, Georgia by outfitting them with KittyCam video cameras. Scientists were interested in risk and predation behaviors exhibited by pet cats and the video cameras provided a cats-eye-view of outdoor activities. Take a look inside to find out more!



Bird capture from a KittyCam point-of-view video camera

Additional resources

On our research:

www.kittycams.uga.edu

On keeping cats indoors:

www.abcbirds.org/cats

www.indoorpet.osu.edu



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**Keep pet cats and
wildlife safe:
New research- based
information and
images**



Dangers of roaming outside:

- **CROSSING 2 LANE ROADS** 45% of project cats were witnessed crossing roads
- **RISK OR INJURY OR DISEASE** 25% came in close contact with another cat
- **RISK OF INGESTING CHEMICALS** 25% were eating or drinking substances away from home
- **DANGEROUS LOCATIONS** 20% explored the storm drain system, 20% entered crawlspaces, 18% climbed trees or walked along roofs



Predation on wildlife:

- 44% of cats were witnessed stalking or chasing prey; 30% captured wildlife
- Reptiles (lizards and small snakes) were the most common suburban prey item in our study followed by mammals (voles and chipmunks)
- While only a few bird captures were viewed via KittyCams, many cats stalked birds- this can negatively impact bird behavior
- Most prey was captured during warm seasons

Stalking and capture of wildlife as viewed via KittyCams video cameras:



Recommendations for cat owners:

- Keep younger male cats indoors as much as possible- we found age and sex to be predictors of risk behaviors. Information on keeping kitties happy indoors: <http://indoorpet.osu.edu/>
- Keep hunting cats indoors to protect wildlife, especially during warm seasons, or consider a "CatBib" www.catgoods.com
- Remove bird baths, houses and feeders from your yard if you allow your cat to roam
- Take advantage of available vaccinations to prevent roaming cats from contracting disease
- Consider outdoor enclosures or leash-training to keep your pet safe while outdoors