
INFORMED CONSENT FORM for RESEARCH
This form is valid September 22, 2016 to September 22, 2017

Title of Study Secret Wild Life of Cats, "Cat Tracker"

Principal Investigator Rob Dunn

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You have the right to be a part of this study, to choose not to participate or to stop participating at any time without penalty. If you do not understand something in this form it is your right to ask the researcher for clarification or more information. A copy of this consent form will be provided to you. If at any time you have questions about your participation, do not hesitate to contact the researcher(s) named above.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to track the movements of owned, outdoor domesticated cats around the world. We aim to understand the movement patterns and ranges of indoor/outdoor cats and to engage the public in the process of tracking and studying wildlife movement. A small group of participants in this study from central North Carolina, if eligible and willing, will allow researchers to analyze the scat of their cat to better understand cat diet, parasites and gut microbes, in light of its movement patterns.

What will happen if you take part in the study?

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a brief electronic questionnaire (25 minutes) about your cat's habits, health, diet, and ownership history.

Cat Movement Tracking

The tracking period consists of a total of 12 days.

Central NC, Fairfield County, CT and Westchester County and Long Island, NY Residents: Researchers will arrange a time to deliver a small cat-sized, adjustable harness and pre-programmed GPS unit to you (weight = 40g or 1.41 ounces). You will place the harness on the cat for 1 day without the GPS unit to acclimate it. After 1 day, and at a specified time, you will then clip the GPS unit into the cat harness. The GPS unit will begin recording location measurements based on your cat's movement every 3 minutes. If the cat exceeds movement rates of 10km/hr, the unit will take measurements every 10 seconds in order to establish a reliable path for your pet. After 5 days, you will remove the GPS unit and re-charge it as instructed or swap it out with a provided freshly charged unit. Do not remove the harness from the cat in this interim period. Replace the GPS unit and continue tracking for an additional 6 days. After the 12 day tracking period is completed, remove the harness from the cat and then return the harness and GPS unit to the project leaders at NC State or the Bruce Museum (if local to CT-area). Researchers will either instruct you how to download the data from your cat's GPS unit (and share resulting CSV file) or they will directly download the GPS data and generate a map based on the data points collected. They'll share a map of your cat's tracks with you via email.

Do-It-Yourself Participants: You will purchase and assemble a cat-sized GPS-collar according to the specifications and instructions detailed on cats.yourwildlife.org. You will allow your cat to acclimate to the harness for 1 day. You will then program the GPS unit to begin recording location measurements based on your cat's movement every 3 minutes. Additionally, you will program the GPS unit to take measurements every 10 seconds if the cat exceeds movement rates of 10km/hr, in order to establish a reliable path for your pet (instructions described on website). Track your cat for 5 days, remove and charge the GPS unit (leaving the harness on the cat), and then track for an additional 6 days. After the 12 day tracking period, you will follow online instructions to download your cat's GPS data onto your own computer and then to upload the resulting CSV file through a web form on cats.yourwildlife.org.

Researchers will upload all GPS data files to Movebank (www.movebank.org), a free online database of animal tracking data coordinated by the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, and the University of Konstanz. GPS data collected from your pet will be both viewable and downloadable to Movebank users. We will not explicitly share your identity or specific street address, although the general vicinity of your home at the neighborhood/street level may be apparent with close zoom on Google maps.

Diet Isotope Analysis Sub-Study

The researchers want to use isotopes to see what your cat might be eating beyond the food bowl. Based on the 'you are what you eat' principal, analysis of carbon and nitrogen isotopes in your cat's hair can give researchers clues about your cat's diet. By comparing the isotopic signature of your cat's hair with the signature of their pet food, we can see if your cat is getting food elsewhere - i.e. if they are consuming wild birds or mice. If you elect to be considered for the diet isotope analysis portion of the study, researchers will ask you to complete an additional questionnaire with more detailed questions about your cat's diet habits. Researchers will use this questionnaire to select sub-study participants. If selected, on the final day that your cat is being tracked you will collect 1 TBSP (15mL) of **dry** cat food and 1 TBSP (15 mL) of cat hair collected off a brush (if you have multiple cats, please clean the brush so there

plastic bags and mail* in a padded envelop to:

NC Museum of Natural Sciences
Biodiversity Lab/Cat Tracker
11 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27612

*If you are a local participant to Raleigh/Durham, NC we can arrange for one of our researchers to pickup the hair and cat food or you may choose to deliver the materials to the Biodiversity Lab at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences during regular business hours.

Risks

Movement data uncovered in this study could potentially cause conflict with your neighbors or bird enthusiasts. Local leash law ordinances may also come into question with regards to allowing cats off personal property without being properly restrained. We will never publicly disclose your specific home address, but mapping data shared on Movebank (interfaced with Google maps) will reveal the geographic location of the cat's movements and the general vicinity of the home at the neighborhood/street level when one close zooms with the Google map function in Movebank.

Benefits

You will not receive any direct benefit from participating in the study. You will receive a little bit of information about the outdoor movements of your cat. If you provide us with an email, we will share a map detailing your cat's movements over the 12 day study period. If you participate in the diet/health sub-study component, we will share information regarding your cat's diet via email (if provided).

Confidentiality

Your name, identity, and specific street address will remain confidential, and known only to the research team. Data that you provide in the Cat Owner Questionnaire and Diet Questionnaire will be stored securely in electronic databases accessible only to project researchers. Your identity will not be associated with your cat's movement or diet data in oral, electronic or written reports. Please note that the general vicinity of your home at the neighborhood or street level may be apparent when users employ the close zoom function to view your cat's movement in Movebank (integrated with Google maps).

Compensation

You will not receive anything for participating.

What if you are a NCSU student?

Participation in this study is not a course requirement and your participation or lack thereof, will not affect your class standing or grades at NC State.

What if you are a NCSU employee?

Participation in this study is not a requirement of your employment at NCSU, and your participation or lack thereof, will not affect your job.

What if you have questions about this study?

If you have questions at any time about the study or the procedures, you may contact the researcher, Rob Dunn, at rrdunn@ncsu.edu, or Lea Shell at Lea_Shell@ncsu.edu, 919-717-8250

What if you have questions about your rights as a research participant?

If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or your rights as a participant in research have been violated during the course of this project, you may contact Deb Paxton, Regulatory Compliance Administrator, Box 7514, NCSU Campus (919-515-4514).

Consent To Participate

"I have read and understand the above information. I have received a copy of this form. I agree to participate in this study with the understanding that I may choose not to participate or to stop participating at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which I am otherwise entitled."

Subject's signature _____ Date _____

Investigator's signature _____ Date _____