



### **Feral Cats of Marloth Park.**

A feral cat is a domestic cat that has become lost or abandoned. In a short time this cat will become wild due to necessity. Any offspring will be born wild. It is nocturnal and avoids all contact with humans. It multiplies quickly, being able to have two to three litters a year consisting of up to three kittens.

The feral cats are carnivores. Their diet consists of birds, lizards and small mammals. They are known as "surplus killers", meaning they kill more than they eat. They can decimate mosquito eating birds with the ensuing problems of more mosquitos.

An individual cat may only live for two years, but should a colony form the life span becomes up to ten years, a disaster for Marloth. The feral cat cannot be rehabilitated and generally leads a miserable life.

The feral cats are not vaccinated and can spread feline leukemia, feline Aids and rabies. They will also have worm infestations, ticks and fleas.

Feral cats are the greatest threat to our native African Wildcat. They can and will interbreed with the Wildcat. In time the pure Wildcat could be eliminated. The purest Wildcat is recorded to be in the Kgalagadi. It looks like a large tabby cat (by up to 50%) with long legs, bold stripes on neck and legs, cream neck and abdomen and reddish ears. Its habitat is diverse but it prefers the savannah.

The feral cats will breed with each other so not all feral cats are tabby!

The message is simple: If we love our domestic cats, our unique ecosystem and value our African Wildcat, do not put all three under threat by bringing your pet into Marloth.

### **Wildekatte van Marloth Park.**

‘n Wildekat is ‘n huiskat wat verlore geraak het of agtergelaat is. Hierdie kat word wild in ‘n kort tydjie as gevolg van noodsaaklikheid. Kleintjies word wild gebore. Hulle is naglewend en vermy alle kontak met mense. Hulle vermeerder vinnig want hulle is in staat om twee tot drie werpsels in ‘n jaar te hê, met tot drie katjies in ‘n werpsel.

Wildekatte is karnivore. Hulle dieët bestaan uit voëls, akkedisse en klein soogdiere. Hulle staan bekend as "oortollige-slagters", wat beteken dat hulle meer doodmaak as wat hulle kan eet. Hulle kan muskietetende-voëls uitwis wat veroorsaak dat daar nog meer muskiete is.

‘n Individuele kat mag miskien vir net twee jaar leef, maar as ‘n groep vorm kan die lewensduur tot tien jaar word, ‘n ramp vir Marloth. Wildekatte kan nie gerehabiliteer word nie en oor die algemeen lei hulle ‘n mislike lewe.

Wildekatte word nie ingeënt nie en kan kat-leukemie, kat-vigs en hondsdolheid versprei. Hulle sal ook besmet wees met wurms, bosluise en vlooië.

Wildekatte is die grootste bedreiging vir ons natuurlike Vaalboskat. Hulle kan en sal kruisteel met die Vaalboskat. Oor tyd, kan dit die suiwer Vaalboskat elimineer. Die suiwerste Vaalboskat is aangeteken in die Kgalagadi. Hulle lyk soos ‘n groot gestreepte huiskat, maar met langer bene en duidelike strepe op die nek en bene, ‘n roomkleurige-nek en -buik met rooierige ore. Hulle kom wydverspreid voor, maar verkies savannas.

Wildekatte sal met mekaar teel, so, nie alle wildekatte is gestreep nie!

Die boodskap is eenvoudig: As ons lief is vir ons huiskatte, ons unieke ekosisteem, en as ons ons Vaalboskatte waardeer, sal ons nie al drie bedreig deur ons troeteldiere na Marloth toe te bring nie.