

Cats



a hunting cat, NSW in 2025 (Sooraj Sekhar)

Cats are predators. It is in their nature to hunt - and they're very skilled at it.

They can climb trees and can swim if they have to.

They are lone hunters and will lie in wait for their prey.

They hunt even when they're not hungry, and the desire to hunt does not diminish when they're desexed.

Cats were domesticated thousands of years ago to protect food supplies from rats and mice.

They were kept on farms, in warehouses and on ships for this purpose - and were very effective.



the statue of Trim at Sydney's Mitchell Library

One of the more famous ship cats was Trim.

Trim accompanied Matthew Flinders on the HMS Investigator on the 1801-03 voyage to circumnavigate and map Australia's coastline.

Matthew Flinders called our country Australia. Before this time it was known as New Holland.



a hunting cat in Bourke, NSW in 2025 (Mike Bremers)

It is estimated that there are some 5 million pet cats in homes in Australia and a similar number of feral cats in the bush.

Our small lizards, marsupials and birds are particularly vulnerable to cats.

The Invasive Species Council estimates that each year in Australia cats kill 2 billion (yes billion) mostly native fauna.

This kitten was found in the Ngula Bulgarabang Regional Park (Katoomba) in 2018.



The cat family

Male: tom. Female: queen. Baby: kitten.

Group of cats: clowder.

Group of feral cats: colony.

Group of kittens: kindle.

Look for cats that are not at home and wonder if they are up to no good.

Have you seen a cat out and about?

Have you seen the statue of Trim?

