



Key Largo Woodrat



Key Largo Cotton Mouse



Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit



Silver Rice Rat

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In 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion that determined free-roaming cats may result in the extinction of the endangered Key Largo Woodrat, Key Largo Cotton Mouse, and the Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit. In addition, they may further reduce the population of the threatened Silver Rice Rat.

Additional Resources

Florida Keys SPCA, Key West
305 294 4857

Humane Animal Care Coalition, Key Largo
305 451 0088

Safe Harbor Animal Rescue of the Keys (SHARK)
305 743 4800

American Bird Conservancy
www.abcbirds.org

American Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
www.1spca.org

Our Animal Family
www.ouranimalfamily.org

FEMA & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service do not endorse any non-federal organizations

REMEMBER

Don't feed cats outdoors

Keep cats indoors

City of Marathon, Florida



9805 Overseas Highway,
Marathon, Florida
Office 305 743 0033 / FAX 305 743 3667



Free-roaming cats in the Florida Keys



KEEP CATS INDOORS

**Keeping your cat indoors is
Much safer for both your pet and
The local wildlife and birds!**



Photo by Stavrolo*

What is a Free-roaming cat?

A free-roaming cat is defined as a cat living outdoors at least part of the time. This may be a pet cat that is allowed to spend time outdoors, a lost or abandoned cat, a tame cat with n owner, or a feral cat.

Why are Free-roaming cats a concern?

Free-roaming cats may injure or kill several species of endangered Keys mammals, of which few remain in the wild, as well as other native wildlife and birds. There are estimated to be thousands of free-roaming cats in the Florida Keys. A well-fed cat can still kill small mammals and birds due to its predatory instinct. Free-roaming cats carry and spread many feline diseases, such as rabies, Feline Leukemia, FIV, heartworms, hookworms, and toxoplasmosis. Some diseases can be transmitted to other wildlife, pets, and people.

(www.cdc.gov/healthypets/animals/cats.htm)

Free roaming cats are exposed to harsh weather and storms. After a feral cat is trapped to be vaccinated or neutered, it may be resistant to trapping for future veterinary care, leaving it at risk for many diseases.

Indoor cats live healthier, longer lives.

What can I do to help protect the Key Largo Woodrat, Key Largo Cotton Mouse, and Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit, as well as other wild creatures in the Keys?

- Keep your cat indoors
- Never abandon your cat
- Spay or neuter your cat
- Do not feed cats or other wild animals outdoors
- Make sure your cat has fun indoor play opportunities
- Secure your trash
- Support local animal shelters and pet adoption programs
- Comply with all local animal laws
- Watch for animals while driving
- Plant native vegetation



Photo by dr relling*

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and federally threatened and endangered species

In 2011, the U.S District court for the Southern Florida District of Florida ordered FEMA to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on FEMA's issuance of flood insurance policies which the Court said encouraged development in the Florida Keys. Increased development was linked to greater numbers of free-roaming cats and their predation on federally threatened and endangered mammals. Consequently, FEMA, FWS, and the communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program must work together to protect the Key Largo Woodrat, Key Largo Cotton Mouse, and the Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit, Silver Rice Rat, and other federally threatened and endangered animals and plants.



For more information on what you can do to protect listed species in the Florida Keys, visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/verobeach/ConservationintheKeys.html>

For more information on free-roaming cats, contacts are provided on the opposite page.