

News[®]

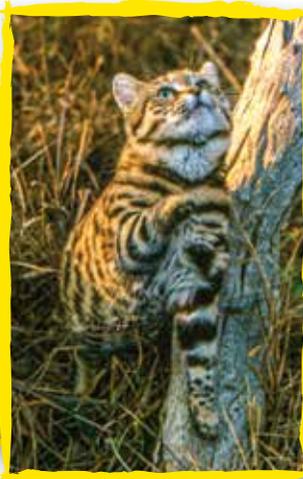
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This Is the World's Most DANGEROUS Cat!

It may look cute, but this black-footed cat is a fierce hunter. It is great at catching animals to eat! But it needs our help.

My name _____



The cat stays low to the ground. Then it jumps! Gotcha, bird!



CUTE but DEADLY

The black-footed cat is a great hunter, but it's in danger. Scientists want to help before it's too late.

As You Read

Think about how scientists are trying to help the black-footed cat.

It's midnight, and a fierce **predator** is hunting for food. As it slowly creeps through the dry grass, it flattens its body against the sand. It's perfectly still. Then it lets out its spine-tingling cry: Meow!

Cute Little Kitty

Meet the black-footed cat. It's fuzzy and cute. It's smaller than a house cat, and it's the deadliest wildcat in the world!

When you think of fierce cats, you probably think of huge animals, like

lions and tigers. You probably don't think of a tiny one that looks like a fuzzy stuffed animal.

But the black-footed cat is an amazing hunter. It catches mice, lizards, and spiders. It even snatches birds out of the air! In fact, it's better at hunting than any other wildcat in the world. So what's the problem?

Cats in Danger

Not many black-footed cats are left in the wild. Scientists are worried that they will become **endangered**, or in danger of dying out completely.

The biggest problem is that people are destroying the cats' habitat to put up new buildings. This kills the mice,

birds, and insects that live there, which creates an environment with little food for the cats to eat.

Another problem is hunting. People don't hunt black-footed cats, but they hunt other animals that live in the area. Sometimes they accidentally kill black-footed cats.

Scientists Are Helping!

Scientists are working hard to protect these cats. The scientists put **tracking collars** on them, and the collars send messages that tell the scientists where the cats go. The scientists can make sure the cats are safe.

Scientists also trap some cats and take them to zoos, where they help the black-footed cats have kittens. When the kittens are old enough, the scientists will bring them

back to the wild. They hope that these cats will have more kittens and the number of black-footed cats will start growing again.

People have created problems for black-footed cats, but people can solve those problems too. Watch out, mice and birds! Black-footed cats are coming back!

—by Blair Rainsford



A scientist puts a tracking collar on a black-footed cat.

Where's That Cat?

Black-footed cats are hard for scientists to find. Why?



- They come out at night.
- They hide from people.
- They are tiny.

Scientists are so happy when they find a black-footed cat and put a tracking collar on it. That lets the scientists help keep the cats safe.