

COVID-19 Procedures

Urban Cat Count in The City of Vancouver



STEWARDSHIP CENTRE
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA



Vancouver Bird
Advisory Committee

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PROGRAMME POSTDOCTORAL



Part 1 - General

Name of Department/Project:	Stewardship Centre for BC Vancouver Cat Count		
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1. Description of the Initiative

Domestic cats (*Felis catus*) are abundant in urban areas and can have an adverse impact on urban wildlife and pose public health risks. A key component of understanding the impacts of cats, and developing humane, socially acceptable, and cost-effective management strategies, and the Vancouver Bird Strategy, involves counting the number of cats in the City of Vancouver.

To count cats, we will be deploying a network of trail cameras across The City of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Vancouver is ~ 114 km², has a population of 631,486, and is characterized by single-family residences, a large university, several parks and green spaces, and a large downtown core (3.7km²). We will be deploying trail cameras at 136 monitoring sites, for three weeks, within commercial, industrial, residential and parkland areas of Vancouver.

Trail cameras are non-invasive and take pictures of animals as they walk in front of the camera. This allows us to see where cats are when we don't see them. We will also be creating a photographic inventory of cats and measuring whether some areas of the city have more cats than others.

2. COVID-19 Considerations

We will be installing trail cameras on trees, fence posts and stable infrastructure within a residential area, urban parkland, industrial, and commercial areas. All cameras and installation equipment used in the study will be sanitized and disinfected prior to outdoor installation. Cameras will be positioned

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approximately 30 cm above the ground; the placement for each camera will depend on the available vegetation or infrastructure as well as the property layout.

Physical distancing is imperative for limiting the transmission of Covid-19. Practicing strict physical distancing will be a prerequisite for conducting our research. While doing this research in communities, the co-investigator will adhere to the advice of the BC Health Minister and the Government of Canada Guidance. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding touching of the face, eyes, nose and mouth, covering the nose and mouth while coughing or sneezing, wearing a mask, and limiting contact with individuals.

The co-investigator will be the sole individual responsible for installation and removal of trail cameras. Limiting installation and removal to one individual will effectively reduce potential exposure risk while operating on private property or in public parkland areas. Following BC Public health official and B.C. Public Health Minister, the co-investigator will maintain a 2-meter distance away from all personnel and landowners while working in both public and private areas to maintain physical distancing protocols. The co-investigator will also be wearing protective equipment in the form of a facemask and gloves. Gloves will be sanitized or exchanged before, during and after camera trap installation. Regularly touched surfaces will also be frequently disinfected to minimize the risk of transmission and exposure to COVID-19.

Installation of camera traps in public parkland areas will occur between the hours of 6 am – 10 am and 10 pm-12 am to reduce the potential for interactions with human residents and recreators using parks. Trail cameras installed within residential areas will be scheduled directly with the property manager or homeowner of the residence. This will allow the co-investigator to schedule specific times to install camera traps within residential areas that will allow for little to no in-person interaction during the installation process.

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Part 2 - Program Area Signatures

Elizabeth Gow

May 20, 2020

Principle Investigator

Signature

Date

Jaylen Bastos

May 21, 2020

Co-Investigator

Signature

Date

DG Blair

May 20 2020

Stewardship Centre for BC

Signature

Date