

From the Desk of Louise Holton

ACR has been successfully operating our African Wildcat (AWC) Conservation Action Plan in the Kruger National Park region for 2.5 years, thanks to a generous grant from Jon Ayres Wild Cat Conservation Trust. The purpose of this project has been to protect the Wildcat species (*Felis lybica cafra*), which is threatened by hybridization with unsterilized domestic cats, using trap-neuter-return of domestic cats. Prior to this project, we worked on the border of the Pilanesberg Game Reserve to sterilize the stray and feral cats living on the Sun City Property that shares a fence with the Reserve. African wildcats live in the Pilanesberg Reserve, as well as in other national parks.

We have sterilized almost 2,500 domestic cats around Kruger National Park while also educating community members about the importance of spaying/neutering pet cats. ACR will expand the AWC Conservation Action Plan to 12 other South African national parks in order to have a larger scale, more wide-spread effect on preserving the purity of AWCs.

The 12 national parks where we will implement the AWC Conservation Action Plan will be selected based upon:

- their AWC population density
- the (estimated) prevalence of hybridization in the area
- the surrounding towns' economic standing, as poorer communities typically lack access to education and awareness about animal welfare

Your kitty's wild ancestors!

The African Wildcat is the ancestor of our beloved pet cats! Threatened by hybridization and human encroachment into their habitats, it is not known how many pure AWCs exist today because they are extremely elusive, nocturnal and solitary, and very well camouflaged.¹ We need to take action now to end hybridization. Alley Cat Rescue is able to do that. We are the only group in the world with an Action Plan to save this iconic species.

The AWC is a natural part of environments throughout most of Africa. Their predation of small mammals is essential to their habitats as it prevents overpopulation of animals such as rodents and rabbits, which could consume excessive amounts of vegetation when their populations are not controlled.



Photo by Scotch Macaskill



Louise

Louise Holton
President/Founder

If you wish to support this project, please mark your donation "African Wildcat Project!"