

1 **Cat News – guidelines to authors**

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8 **Abstract.** Cat News, the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group’s biannual newsletter, covers
9 Original Contributions, Short Communications and News related to the conservation of cat
10 species across the world. In addition to the two regular spring and fall numbers, the series
11 “Cat News Special Issue”, typically realised together with partner institutions, covers specific
12 themes relevant to cat conservation or research. Original Contributions are peer reviewed.
13 Manuscript submitted to Cat News must be organised according to these Guidelines. Further
14 information related to Cat News can be found on the website of the Cat Specialist Group
15 www.catsg.org.

16 **Type of articles**

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18 Cat News, the newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group, publishes short articles
19 relevant to cat conservation and research contributing to the understanding and conservation
20 of all members of the family of the Felidae. Cat News is published twice a year, in spring and
21 fall. “Special Issues” follow the same policy and rules, but may deviate from these Guidelines
22 depending on the theme. Articles published in Cat News fall into the following categories
23 (Table 1):

24 *Original Contributions*

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26 Original Contributions present new findings, approaches, or concepts relevant to cat
27 conservation. This is the most data-oriented section of Cat News, typically presenting original
28 information, analysis or discussions that will be subject to peer review. Short review papers
29 on a specific topic are welcome. Original contributions should not be longer than 4 printed
30 pages in Cat News. Depending on illustrations, the length of a manuscript is 2500–3000
31 words. Original articles are exemplified by colour photos, diagrams, and maps. After
32 publication, Original Contributions are integrated into the Digital Cat Library as Portable
33 Document Format file (PDF/Adobe Acrobat).

34 *Short Communications*

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36 Short Communications report mainly new discoveries regarding distribution, behaviour, or
37 ecology of cats. Length is 1, exceptionally 2 printed pages (500–750 words). Short
38 Communications are illustrated by at least one colour photo, possibly diagrams and maps.
39 They also need an **abstract**. New discoveries or interesting confirmations of presence of cats
40 in a specific place are described with longitude, latitude and altitude, and must provide
41 evidence for the presence of the cats (photo, genetic analysis or any other robust proof). Short
42 Communications are editor reviewed, exceptionally peer reviewed. After publication, Short
43 Communications are integrated into the Digital Cat Library as Portable Document Format file
44 (PDF/Adobe Acrobat).

1 *News*

2 News articles cover the following topics: (1) updates and information from partner institutions
3 or working groups of the Cat Specialist Group, (2) brief reports on events such as conferences
4 or workshops, (3) short articles covering news relevant to cat conservation from other
5 sources, and (4) reviews of new publications. News articles are generally short, 0.5–1 printed
6 page, and illustrated with colour pictures if possible and relevant. News articles are edited, but
7 not peer reviewed.

8 9 *Forum*

10 Letters to the editors launch discussions on important aspects in cat conservation and
11 research. If a controversial topic is addressed, the editors may invite a competent peer to write
12 a reply to be published in the same issue of Cat News. Further reactions and opinions to the
13 topic are subsequently published on the Cat Specialist Group's website (www.catsg.org).

14 15 **Preparation of manuscripts**

16 Manuscripts submitted to Cat News must follow these Guidelines, which also serve as an
17 example for the format of the manuscript, including the **Abstract** and the format of the
18 reference list! All articles must be submitted as a MS Word file or a compatible text file
19 format (*.doc, *.docx, *.rtf). Typeface and size is Times New Roman 12 pt, left aligned
20 without word division (hyphenation), paragraphs separated by an empty line throughout the
21 manuscript. Pages and lines must be numbered. Title and chapter headings are formatted
22 **boldface**, subchapter titles *italic*. Scientific names of all species are added after the vernacular
23 name when mentioned first, without brackets, author and year – for instance Eurasian lynx
24 *Lynx lynx* – but are not given in the title of the article. Articles in Cat News should be
25 organised like any other scientific paper – abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion
26 – but it is not mandatory to use these terms as chapter headings.

27 28 *Tables and illustrations*

29 Tables are organised and formatted as presented in Table 1. The width of a table should not
30 exceed the page width of Cat News (see Marker et al. 2008 for an example). Tables are
31 headed and consecutively numbered. In a submitted manuscript, tables are inserted after the
32 text, before captions to figures.

33 Illustrations are line drawings, maps or photographs, referred to in the text as Fig. 1, Fig. 2,
34 etc. Captions are mandatory for all illustrations and must be added in chronological order at
35 the end of the manuscript. Photo credits are mentioned in the caption, but not integrated into
36 picture. All photos and colour figures have to be submitted as Joint Photographic Experts
37 Group (*.jpg) files, size 15 x ~10 cm and a resolution of 300 dpi (1772 x 1350 pixel). For MS
38 Excel figures, the original files (*.xls or *.xlsx) must be submitted. Filenames must indicate
39 the number of the illustration as used in the manuscript.

40
41 Tables and figures are mentioned in the text in consecutive order.

42 43 *Citations of references*

44 at News articles are fully referenced. References can be journal articles of one, two or several
45 authors cited in the text as follows: Karanth (2003), Wegge & Stooras (2009), Perovic et al.
46 (2003). The full reference is given in the reference list in alphabetic order at the end of the
47 text. For the correct citations of books or book chapters (Malbrant & Maclatchy 1949,
48 Hamilton 1988) see reference list of this manuscript. Authors are requested to prepare the
49 reference list very carefully and to refer to these Guidelines or any recent issue of Cat News
50 for citations and preparation of the reference list.

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1 *Taxonomy*

2 In Cat News we use the taxonomy according to Nowell & Jackson (1996) with the two
3 exceptions *Panthera uncia* and *Neofelis diardi*. Any changes to this will be announced.

4 5 *Supporting Online Material*

6 Extended tables, appendices, additional graphs and photographs can be submitted as
7 Supporting Online Material which is available in the Cat News section of the Cat SG website.

8 9 **Submission, review and revision process**

10 Authors are invited to submit articles for any of the four categories to Cat News. Manuscripts
11 including tables and captions to figures should be submitted in electronic form to Christine
12 (ch.breitenmoser@kora.ch). The editors (authors of these guidelines) decide whether an
13 article is suited for publication in Cat News. Manuscripts of Original Contributions and
14 exceptionally Short Communications prepared according to these Guidelines will be
15 submitted to a peer review process. Considering the judgement of the reviewers, the editors
16 then decide whether a paper is refused or accepted with or without revision. Forum papers are
17 only editor reviewed. Depending on the topic, the editors may invite another author to
18 respond to the letter or to present an alternative view.

19 20 **References**

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31 Marker L. L., Fabiano E. & Nghikembua M. 2008. The use of remote camera traps to estimate
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35 cat in northern Argentina. *Oryx* 37, 374-377.
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38 learned in Bardia National Park, Nepal. *Animal Conservation* 12, 78-84.

1 Tables

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4 Table 1. Types and length of articles submitted for publication to Cat News.

Type of article	Maximum length			Review process
	Printed pages	Words	Characters w. space	
Original contribution	4	3,000	20,000	Peer reviewed
Short Communication	1	750	5,000	Editor or peer reviewed
News	1	750	5,000	Editor reviewed
Forum	1-2	1,500	10,000	Editor reviewed / respond

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8 Captions to figures

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10 [Add here captions to figures (photos, diagrams or maps) in chronological order.]

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