

# Companion Animal Biology 2015 Sem 2 Revision Notes

## Introduction

### Natural law

Natural order in world, anything against order is wrong  
Absolute moral law decided by God

### Motivism

Moral worth of action depends on motives  
Bad motives = bad act

### Consequentialism

Effects of action that are morally significant, not motives  
E.g. helping someone but make situation worse = morally bad

### Utilitarianism

Greatest happiness principle – good action maximize happiness  
Judge action by subtracting unhappiness caused by action from happiness caused

### Property of individuals?

Property in law Greece/Rome – modern acts  
1522 France, rats summoned for destroying grain  
1906 Switzerland, dog sentenced to death for attacking person  
Animal welfare legislation in Vic based on intent, not outcome

Market forces

Dog wear – protection (warmth, sun, safety), fashion

Need:

- Biological
- Most animals adapt in wild – evolutionary
- Limited ability when integrated in human society
- Breed specific

Clothing problems:

- Irritation, stress, overheating, choking hazards, skin problems, entanglement

Pets as a commodity – puppy farms, designer dogs, fashion accessories, indoor toilets

## Felines

### The domestic cat

Evolved from African wild cat: *Felis silvestris* Libya

- Highly specialized, solitary predator of small vertebrates (rodents, birds, reptiles)

### Cats in Australia – the beginnings

Introduced by European settlers

- Protect domestic food from rodents (mice)
- Combat rabbit plague (hunt rabbits that were released for game)

Native predators culled by settlers – cats turned feral (Tasmanian devil)  
Cats fed on native birds and mammals as well as introduced species (marsupials)

## Free roaming populations

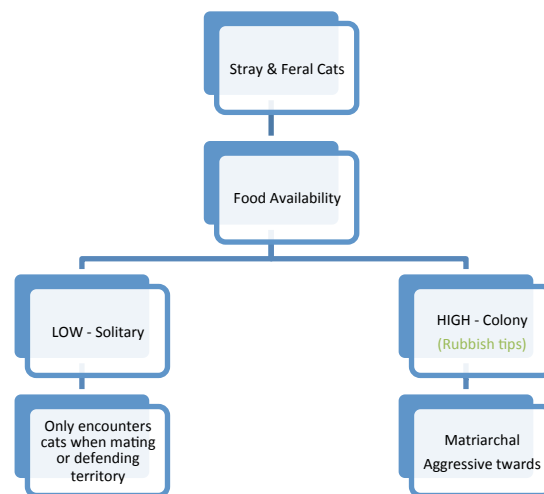
Fecundity

- High reproductive rate well adapted to juvenile mortality (dingoes, 5-6 kittens in litter)
- Early sexual maturity (8-10 weeks desex before going home)
- Polygamous mating system
- Seasonal polyoestrous (go into heat in warmer seasons, longer breeding period)
- Induced ovulation (if don't mate, go in season next week) (ovulate after mating)

Highly adaptable (eat anything)

Human factors – over breeding, failure to sterilize (pet cats), feeding strays, breakdown of cat-owner relationship (different attitude on cats) (lack of microchipping to reclaim)

## Cat social behaviour



Also included are:

- The rest of Felines
- Animal breeding
- Horse health
- Environmental enrichment
- Reptiles
- Dog & cat health
- Housing exotic pets
- Housing aquatic pets
- Backyard dogs
- When good dogs turn bad
- Animal Senses
- Animal behaviour & communication
- Animal training
- Basic nutrition
- Dog & cat nutrition
- Small animal nutrition