

Basic Cat Rights

By the [San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#)

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The growing popularity of cats as house pets has gone hand-in-hand with increased efforts to legislate, regulate, and even eradicate these animals from our midst. In light of this growing threat to cats' lives and welfare, we feel obligated to come forward and offer our perspective.

The Cat Rights listed below represent the basic principles that have guided our efforts on behalf of cats. We hope everyone will listen to all sides, participate in the debate, and reach their own conclusions. The fate of millions of cats depends on it.

1. The Right to be recognized as a unique and important species.
2. The Right to have their individual lives cherished and protected.
3. The Right to be free from cruelty and abuse.
4. The Right to receive aid and comfort, including food, water, shelter, and medical care.
5. The Right to a fair share of public resources for the care and treatment of companion animals.
6. The Right to be treated as equal members of the animal kingdom.
7. The Right to be represented accurately and humanely by those who speak on their behalf.

For a more detailed discussion of each of these rights, please call The SF/SPCA Ethical Studies Department at (415) 554-3052, or e-mail us at "ethicalstudies@sfspca.org", and we'll gladly mail you a copy.