

Once your submission has been received the submission becomes a public document and may be made publicly available to anyone who requests it. You may request that your contact details be kept confidential, but your name, organisation and your submission itself will become a public document.

Submission on application number:	APP202879 - PredaSTOP
Name of submitter or contact for joint submission:	Sandra Jane Condon
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I wish to keep my contact details confidential

The EPA will deal with any personal information you supply in your submission in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993. We will use your contact details for the purposes of processing the application that it relates to (or in exceptional situations for other reasons permitted under the Privacy Act 1993). Where your submission is made publicly available, your contact details will be removed only if you have indicated this as your preference in the tick box above. We may also use your contact details for the purpose of requesting your participation in customer surveys.

The EPA is likely to post your submission on its website at www.epa.govt.nz. We also may make your submission available in response to a request under the Official Information Act 1982.

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- I support the application
- I oppose the application
- I neither support or oppose the application

The reasons for making my submission are¹: (further information can be appended to your submission, see footnote).

1. We strongly oppose any poison baits being laid anywhere, by anyone. Least of all any "backyard trappers" and anyone who wants to kill animals. They are the last people who should be allowed any traps and certainly NO poison!
2. The crazy idea for Predator Free NZ 2050 is pointless and unachievable. Totally mad! There is no need. There are no problems. Complete waste of money. There are plenty more important and overdue issues that are screaming out for more funding from Gov't and Councils alike.
3. We strongly oppose any reduction to the current distance of 3km for notifications to dwellings of any poison bait being laid at least 3km away. This distance was decided on for good reasons. Do not reduce it. It is the barest minimum now. Cats can travel even greater distances.

There are cases on record as reported in the media as part of their pro microchipping propoganda where microchipped Cats have been found over 30km from their homes. Eg:

- a) <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/98965933/olly-the-cat-found-almost-30km-from-home-on-other-side-of-auckland-waitemat-harbour>
- b) <https://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/cutestuff/102514873/matamata-pussycat-missing-for-six-months-found-in-taranaki>

All submissions are taken into account by the decision makers. In addition, please indicate whether or not you also wish to speak at a hearing if one is held.

- I wish to be heard in support of my submission (this means that you can speak at the hearing)
- I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission (this means that you cannot speak at the hearing)

If neither box is ticked, it will be assumed you do not wish to appear at a hearing.

I wish for the EPA to make the following decision:

1. Do NOT support the Predator Free NZ 2050. Show greater intelligence than all the other fools. EPA is supposed to protect the environment. How does encouraging hundreds more people to lay poison bait all over the place without supervision, help protect the environment? It doesn't. All the animals, wild or domstic, are a valued part of our environment. Cats maintain an excellent job of keeping the rodent numbers down. With cats around, especially during the night when rodents are out, the rats and mice stay cautious and out of sight. This also provides considerable help for the birds. Without cats, rodents are not scared so their presence is becomes very noticeable and substantially more problematic in greater increasing numbers too.
 2. Do NOT reduce the present distance of 3km. There is NO justifiable reason. There are more justifiable reasons for increasing the distance to 10km. !
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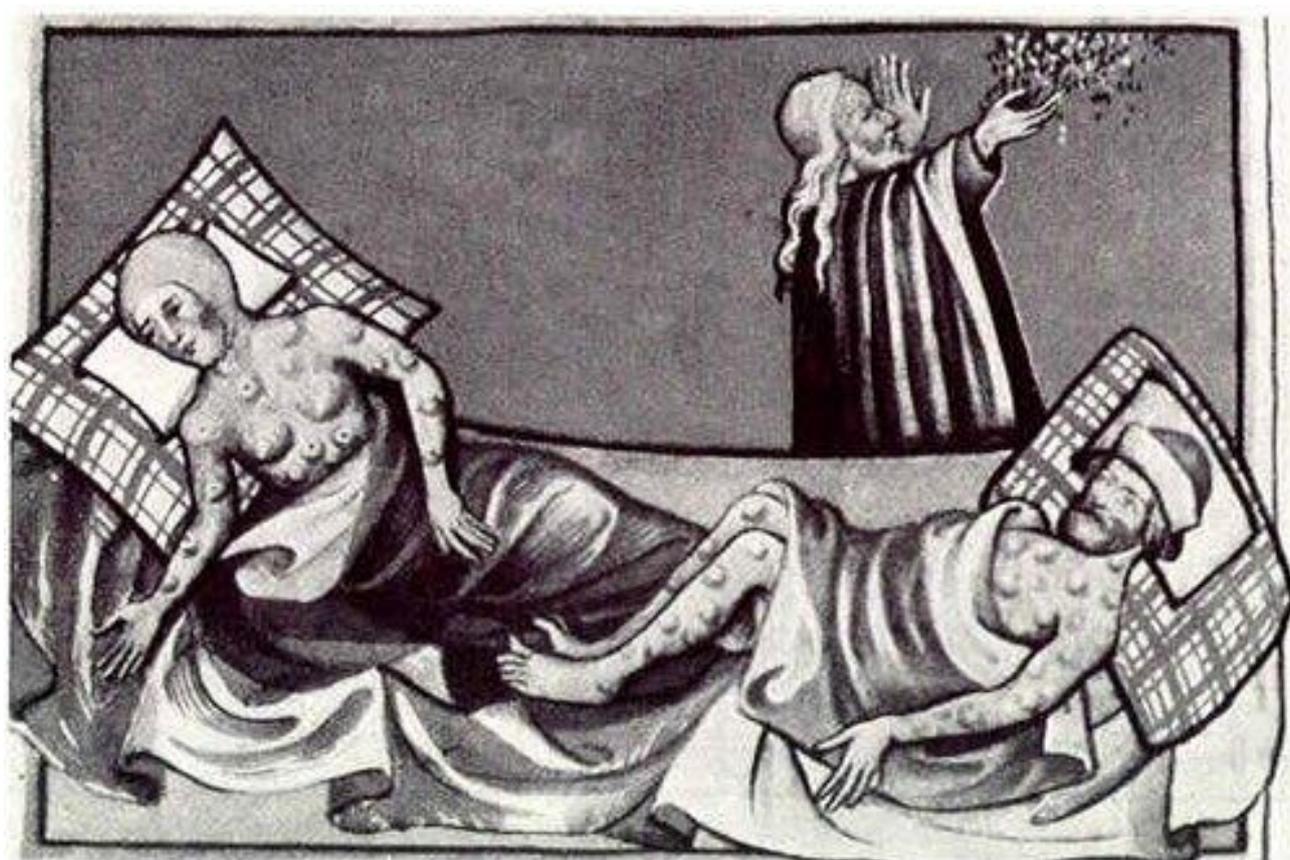
¹ Further information can be appended to your submission, if you are sending this submission electronically and attaching a file we accept the following formats – Microsoft Word, Text, PDF, ZIP, JPEG and JPG. The file must be not more than 8Mb.

Cats and the Black Plague

Updated on February 4, 2010



https://usercontent1.hubstatic.com/6516284_100.jpg alt="habee profile image" title="habee profile image"/>
Holle Abee [more](#) [Contact Author](#)



<https://usercontent2.hubstatic.com/2530251.jpg> data-ratio="0.686" alt=""/>

The black plague, also known as the black death, is a disease caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. It enters the body through the skin and travels via the lymph system. The bacteria live in the digestive tracts of fleas. The fleas, of course, live off blood from a host, and when the fleas swallow the blood, it becomes infected with the bacteria. As the bacteria multiply inside the flea, an intestinal blockage forms, starving the parasite because nutrients cannot be absorbed. The flea vomits in an effort to clear the blockage, and since the flea is starving, it feeds voraciously. When the infected flea vomits the diseased blood into a bite site on a host animal or human, the host becomes infected with black plague.

The disease was once devastating, and the resulting death was horrible. There were actually three forms of the black plague – the bubonic form, the pneumonic form, and the septicemic form. Victims of the bubonic plague suffered painful swollen lymph nodes in the neck and the underarms, called buboes. They were also wracked with high fever, vomiting, pounding headaches, and gangrene. Some were so weak that they barely had the energy to swallow.

The pneumonic form was even more punishing. As the body tried to fight off the disease, large amounts of phlegm were produced. The victims had to constantly cough up sputum in an effort to breathe, and more than ninety-five percent of the time, the patient drowned in his own body fluids. The pneumonic form of the plague didn't need rats or fleas to spread – it was an airborne bacterium spread by the coughs of infected individuals.

Septicemic black plague was a form of blood poisoning and had a mortality rate of one hundred percent. With this type of plague, the individual suffered from high fever and purple blotches on the skin. Fortunately, this deadliest form was also the rarest. From the middle of the 1300s until the 1700s, the black plague terrorized much of Europe and parts of Asia. Most historians believe the plague was first brought to Europe on ships from Asia. The most likely culprit was the black rats that often foraged among the ships' holds for food scraps. These were smaller relatives of the brown rats. The initial outbreak of the plague in fourteenth-century Europe was the most virulent. In fact, much of the populations of England and France were decimated. In some parts of England the death toll was 50%. Some parts of France suffered an astounding loss of ninety percent of their populations.

Many modern readers assume that there was only one outbreak of the black plague, but there were actually several. In fact, it raged through Europe about once every generation until the beginning of the eighteenth century. One of the last major outbreaks occurred in England with the Great Plague of London, which took place in 1665-1666.

Interestingly, the fate of mankind was curiously linked to that of the common house cat. When the cat populations rose, the pandemic ebbed, and when the cat population plummeted, the black plague made a resurgence. Why?

Remember that the plague was spread by fleas that lived on rats. A vicious cycle kept the disease going. Infected fleas would bite a rat, and the rodent would become infected. Then other fleas biting the infected rat would become infected themselves. Once the host rat died of the plague, any fleas living on it would find themselves homeless and would go in search of a new host. Unfortunately, this often took the form of a human. When the sick infected fleas bit the human in order to feed, the human would become infected. So why didn't the Europeans just keep plenty of cats around to kill the rats and thereby reduce the incidence of the plague? They had cats at the time. They were originally brought to Europe by the Romans, who had discovered the felines in Egypt. Keeping pet cats as mousers had become popular in Europe by the time of the first plague.

To fully answer that question, you need to understand the belief system of medieval Europe. Based on historical accounts and medieval art, people during this period were prone to many superstitions. The Catholic Church was the most powerful entity in Europe at the time, and the masses were consumed with the presence of evil and eradicating it in any form it might be believed to take. Because of their secretive nature and their ability to survive extraordinary circumstances, the general population came to fear cats as consorts of Satan. The innocent cats began to be killed by the thousands. The cats ultimately got their revenge, of course. Since there were few felines left, the rat populations increased unchecked, and the plague grew even more widespread. You'd think that the humans would make the connection by this point, but instead, they made things even worse. They began to associate the plague's new vigor with the cats and even with dogs. They believed that since both of these animals typically harbored fleas, they must be the cause of the plague. Subsequently, cats were outlawed in many parts of Europe, and huge numbers of cats and dogs were killed. In fact, at one point in the middle ages, there were barely any cats left in England at all. Even though cat ownership was illegal in some regions, a few people kept their felines. Other people finally noticed that these cat owners often seemed to be immune to the black plague. Word spread quickly, and more observations of this phenomenon were noticed. This resulted in research, crude as it was during the time. Eventually, it was decided that the *rats*, not the *cats*, were responsible for spreading the black plague. Then, of course, everyone wanted to own a cat or two. And since cats are prolific breeders, it didn't take long for the demand to be satisfied. The laws which had been the cats' death sentence were repealed. In many regions, a new law took its place – one that protected felines instead of banning them and almost causing their extinction in Europe.

<https://www.sciencealert.com/culling-feral-cats-may-actually-increase-their-numbers-study-suggests>

BEC CREW 8 APR 2015

Culling Feral Cats Actually Increases Their Numbers, New Study Finds

Killing them only makes them stronger.

A new study has found that trapping and culling might not be the best solution to Australia's feral cat problem - the practice can actually cause an increase in their numbers.