

## A RAY OF HOPE FOR BIRD AND CAT LOVERS

A frequent event at any wildlife rehab center is someone coming in with a small container and an apologetic look saying “My cat caught this bird, I’m sorry. Can you save it?” Some people come in multiple times, especially during fledgling season when birds that are not yet able to fly are captured and injured or killed. Some of these birds we can save, but many we cannot, and it is sad for us and the cat owners.

Our preference, as animal lovers, is that cats be kept indoors. Studies show that indoor cats live longer and healthier lives and keeping them indoors protects the lizards, rodents and songbirds that are part of the chain of life in our environment. Cats are an exotic, introduced species for which our native wildlife has few defences.

The reality is many people will continue to have outdoor cats and we may have found a way to reduce their predation on songbirds. One of the senior supervisors at the Pacific Wildlife Care Center was facing this dilemma having adopted a stray cat that she could not allow in her home. It was killing birds and Kathy went searching for a way to stop it.

She discovered a collar that was claimed would stop or reduce the killing of birds by cats and, although skeptical, she bought one to try. Kathy feels the result has been dramatic. Despite having a yard full of bird feeders, her cat has stopped catching and killing birds. To Kathy, it appears that the cat has lost interest since she has begun wearing this special collar called the birdsbesafe cat collar.

There are many letters on the web site for this collar that describe similar experiences. Some cats stop hunting completely and others just hunt less, but the collar seems to result in reduced killing.

Although we can’t guarantee these collars, we are excited enough about them to share this information and a link to the website. They cost less than \$10.00 and are a breakaway safety type.

Pacific Wildlife Care does not profit monetarily from sales of the collars.

We would be interested in knowing of successes or failures from people who try them. <http://www.birdsbesafe.com/index.html>

*Claudia Duckworth*  
Center Supervisor, PWC



*Kathy’s cat, resting on the patio wearing her birdsbesafe collar*