

Wildcat identification: precautionary guidance

Wildcats and feral domestic cats can look similar. Follow this guidance to avoid misidentification and ensure that you operate within the law.

If a cat has **all** of the following features **assume wildcat**:

- 1. Brown to grey coat colour.**
- 2. Striped and/or spotted markings.**
- 3. Tail with black rings and black tip.**

If you can't see **all** of these features clearly, **assume wildcat**.

Below are examples of wildcats to show the variation in colour and markings.



Wildcats are legally protected.

It is an offence to deliberately or recklessly*:

- Capture, injure, kill or harass a wildcat.
- Disturb a wildcat in a den or any other structure or place it uses for shelter or protection.
- Disturb a wildcat while it is rearing or otherwise caring for its young.
- Obstruct access to a den or other structure or place wildcats use for shelter or protection or otherwise deny the animal use of that place.
- Disturb a wildcat in a manner or in circumstances likely to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species.
- Disturb a wildcat in a manner or in circumstances likely to impair its ability to survive, breed or reproduce, or rear or otherwise care for its young.
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a wildcat (whether or not deliberately or recklessly)

*ignoring precautionary guidance constitutes reckless behaviour.

If you have a suspected wildcat in a trap:

Take photos of the cat if possible, and then **release the wildcat immediately.**

Send the photos to Saving Wildcats:

wildcats@rzss.org.uk

For more information visit:

savingwildcats.org.uk