

## 1 **Cat News – guidelines to authors**

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8 **Abstract.** Cat News, the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group’s biannual newsletter, covers  
9 Original Contributions, Observations and News related to the conservation of cat species  
10 across the world. In addition to the two regular spring and fall numbers, the series “Cat News  
11 Special Issue”, typically realised together with partner institutions, covers specific themes  
12 relevant to cat conservation or research. Original Contributions are peer reviewed. Manuscript  
13 submitted to Cat News must be organised according to these Guidelines. Further information  
14 related to Cat News can be found on the website of the Cat Specialist Group ([www.catsg.org](http://www.catsg.org)).

### 15 16 **Type of articles**

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18 Cat News, the newsletter of the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group, publishes short articles  
19 relevant to cat conservation and research contributing to the understanding and conservation  
20 of all members of the family of the Felidae. Cat News is published twice a year, in spring and  
21 fall. “Special Issues” follow the same policy and rules, but may deviate from these Guidelines  
22 depending on the theme. Articles published in Cat News fall into the following categories  
23 (Table 1):

#### 24 25 *Original Contributions*

26  
27 Original Contributions present new findings, approaches, or concepts relevant to cat  
28 conservation. This is the most data-oriented section of Cat News, typically presenting original  
29 information, analysis or discussions that will be subject to peer review. Short review papers  
30 on a specific topic are welcome. Original contributions should not be longer than 4 printed  
31 pages in Cat News. Depending on illustrations, the length of a manuscript is 2500–3000  
32 words. Original articles are exemplified by colour photos, diagrams, and maps. After  
33 publication, Original Contributions are integrated into the Digital Cat Library as Portable  
34 Document Format file (PDF/Adobe Acrobat).

#### 35 36 *Observations*

37  
38 Observations are short communications on new discoveries regarding distribution, behaviour,  
39 or ecology of cats. Length is 1, exceptionally 2 printed pages (500–750 words). Observation  
40 articles are illustrated by at least one colour photo, possibly diagrams and maps. New  
41 discoveries or interesting confirmations of presence of cats in a specific place are described  
42 with longitude, latitude and altitude, and must provide evidence for the presence of the cats  
43 (photo, genetic analysis or any other robust proof) is required. Observation articles are editor  
44 reviewed, exceptionally peer reviewed. After publication, Observations are integrated into the  
45 Digital Cat Library as Portable Document Format file (PDF/Adobe Acrobat).

## 1 *News*

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3 News articles cover the following topics: (1) updates and information from partner institutions  
4 or working groups of the Cat Specialist Group, (2) brief reports on events such as conferences  
5 or workshops, (3) short articles covering news relevant to cat conservation from other  
6 sources, and (4) reviews of new publications. News articles are generally short, 0.5–1 printed  
7 page, and illustrated with colour pictures if possible and relevant. News articles are edited, but  
8 not peer reviewed.

## 9 10 *Forum*

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12 Letters to the editors launch discussions on important aspects in cat conservation and  
13 research. If a controversial topic is addressed, the editors may invite a competent peer to write  
14 a reply to be published in the same issue of Cat News. Further reactions and opinions to the  
15 topic are subsequently published on the Cat Specialist Group's website ([www.catsg.org](http://www.catsg.org)).

## 16 17 **Preparation of manuscripts**

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19 Manuscripts submitted to Cat News must follow these Guidelines, which also serve as an  
20 example for the format of the manuscript. All articles must be submitted as a MS Word file or  
21 a compatible text file format (\*.doc, \*.docx, \*.rtf). Typeface and size is Times New Roman  
22 12 pt, left aligned without word division (hyphenation), paragraphs separated by an empty  
23 line throughout the manuscript. Pages and lines must be numbered. Title and chapter headings  
24 are formatted **boldface**, subchapter titles *italic*. Scientific names of all species are added after  
25 the vernacular name when mentioned first, without brackets, author and year – for instance  
26 Eurasian lynx *Lynx lynx* – but are not given in the title of the article. Articles in Cat News  
27 should be organised like any other scientific paper – introduction, methods, results, discussion  
28 – but it is not mandatory to use these terms as chapter headings.

## 29 30 *Tables and illustrations*

31  
32 Tables are organised and formatted as presented in Table 1. The width of a table should not  
33 exceed the page width of Cat News (see Marker et al. 2008 for an example). Tables are  
34 headed and consecutively numbered. In a submitted manuscript, tables are inserted after the  
35 text, before captions to figures.

36  
37 Illustrations are line drawings, maps or photographs, referred to in the text as Fig. 1, Fig. 2,  
38 etc. Captions are mandatory for all illustrations and must be added in chronological order at  
39 the end of the manuscript. Photo credits are mentioned in the caption, but not integrated into  
40 picture. All photos and colour figures have to be submitted as Joint Photographic Experts  
41 Group (\*.jpg) files in a resolution of at least 300 dpi (preferable 450 dpi) with a minimum  
42 width of 5.5 cm (column width) and a maximum of 18 cm (page width). For MS Excel  
43 figures, the original files (\*.xls or \*.xlsx) must be submitted, too. Filenames must indicate the  
44 number of the illustration as used in the manuscript.

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46 Tables and figures are mentioned in the text in consecutive order.

## 47 48 *Citations of references*

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50 Cat News articles are fully referenced. References can be journal articles of one, two or  
51 several authors cited in the text as follows: Karanth (2003), Wegge & Stooras (2009), Perovic

1 et al. (2003). The full reference is given in the reference list in alphabetic order at the end of  
2 the text. For the correct citations of books or book chapters (Malbrant & Maclatchy 1949;  
3 Hamilton 1988) see reference list of this manuscript. Authors are requested to prepare the  
4 reference list very carefully and to refer to these Guidelines or any recent issue of Cat News  
5 for citations and preparation of the reference list.

### 7 **Submission, review and revision process**

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9 Authors are invited to submit articles for any of the four categories to Cat News. Manuscripts  
10 including tables and captions to figures should be submitted in electronic form to the editors  
11 (authors of these Guidelines) or to [catsg@kora.ch](mailto:catsg@kora.ch). The editors decide whether an article is  
12 suited for publication in Cat News. Manuscripts of Original Contributions and exceptionally  
13 Observations prepared according to these Guidelines will be submitted to a peer review  
14 process. Considering the judgement of the reviewers, the editors then decide whether a paper  
15 is refused or accepted with or without revision. Forum papers are only editor reviewed.  
16 Depending on the topic, the editors may invite another author to respond to the letter or to  
17 present an alternative view.

### 18 **References**

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2 Tables

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5 Table 1. Types and length of articles submitted for publication to Cat News.

Type of article	Maximum length			Review process
	Printed pages	Words	Characters w. space	
Original contribution	4	3,000	20,000	Peer reviewed
Observation	1	750	5,000	Editor or peer reviewed
News	1	750	5,000	Editor reviewed
Forum	1-2	1,500	10,000	Editor reviewed / respond

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9 Captions to figures

10  
11 [Add here captions to figures (photos, diagrams or maps) in chronological order.]  
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**[<Cat News guidelines to authors 2009.pdf> / March 2009](#)**