

Government



DANGEROUS PREDATOR? Pity this Wisconsin farm cat if his home state allows hunters to shoot kitties sans collars.

An article in U.S. News and World Report.

They Shoot Cats, Don't They?

Not legally — at least not yet. But if some Wisconsin denizens and cat-haters get their way, they just may one day soon. There's a move afoot in Wisconsin to legalize hunting of wild — as in alley, not mountain — cats. Under the measure, citizens could blow away kitties without collars; no matter that they may have escaped from owners or wriggled out of their neckbands. Supporters say the move would help save songbirds and other wildlife. Hogwash, say animal-rights activists, who are up in, ahem, paws. "It's a ridiculous proposal," says Stephanie Shain of the Humane Society of the United States. "There is no way to tell just by looking at a cat whether she's a feral cat, a family pet allowed outdoors, or one that's been lost." Maybe, but for now the yeas seem to have it; residents at hearings of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, a public advisory group, last week voted in favor. Not to worry, feline friends. Even if a bill claws its way through the Legislature, Gov. Jim Doyle says he'll scratch it. "I don't think," he said, "Wisconsin should be known as a state where we shoot cats."

[Our response below.]

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Letter to the Editor
U.S. News and World Report
1050 Thomas Jefferson St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20007-3837

Dear Editor,

After reading your “Shoot the Kitten” story, I’m convinced I did a smart move by leaving Wisconsin some years ago.

Out here in the West we shoot nothing less than two legged government inspectors.

Sincerely,



Marie Kolasinski