

# CONTENTS

*Preface* ix

*Acknowledgments* xi

*Contributors* xiii

- 1 The Urban Ecosystem 3  
STANLEY D. GEHRT
- 2 Carnivore Behavior and Ecology, and Relationship  
to Urbanization 13  
TODD K. FULLER, STEPHEN DESTEFANO,  
AND PAIGE S. WARREN
- 3 Urban Carnivore Conservation and Management:  
The Human Dimension 21  
HEATHER WIECZOREK HUDENKO, WILLIAM F. SIEMER,  
AND DANIEL J. DECKER
- 4 Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) 35  
JOHN HADIDIAN, SUZANNE PRANGE, RICHARD ROSATTE,  
SETH P. D. RILEY, AND STANLEY D. GEHRT
- 5 Kit Foxes (*Vulpes macrotis*) 49  
BRIAN L. CYPHER
- 6 Red Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) 63  
CARL D. SOULSBURY, PHILIP J. BAKER,  
GRAZIELLA IOSSA, AND STEPHEN HARRIS  
Arctic Foxes (*Alopex lagopus*) and Human Settlements 76  
PAULA A. WHITE
- 7 Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) 79  
STANLEY D. GEHRT AND SETH P. D. RILEY
- 8 Striped Skunks and Allies (*Mephitis* spp.) 97  
RICHARD ROSATTE, KIRK SOBEY, JERRY W. DRAGOO,  
AND STANLEY D. GEHRT

9	Eurasian Badgers ( <i>Meles meles</i> )	109
	STEPHEN HARRIS, PHILIP J. BAKER, CARL D. SOULSBURY, AND GRAZIELLA IOSSA	
10	Bobcats ( <i>Lynx rufus</i> )	121
	SETH P. D. RILEY, ERIN E. BOYDSTON, KEVIN R. CROOKS, AND LISA M. LYREN	
11	Mountain Lions ( <i>Puma concolor</i> )	141
	PAUL BEIER, SETH P. D. RILEY, RAYMOND M. SAUVAJOT	
12	Domestic Cat ( <i>Felis catus</i> ) and Domestic Dog ( <i>Canis familiaris</i> )	157
	PHILIP J. BAKER, CARL D. SOULSBURY, GRAZIELLA IOSSA, AND STEPHEN HARRIS	
13	A Taxonomic Analysis of Urban Carnivore Ecology	173
	GRAZIELLA IOSSA, CARL D. SOULSBURY, PHILIP J. BAKER, AND STEPHEN HARRIS	
	Stone Martens ( <i>Martes foina</i> ) in Urban Environments	181
	JAN HERR	
14	Community Ecology of Urban Carnivores	185
	KEVIN R. CROOKS, SETH P. D. RILEY, STANLEY D. GEHRT, TODD E. GOSELINK, AND TIMOTHY R. VAN DEELEN	
	Gray Foxes ( <i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i> ) in Urban Areas	197
	SETH P. D. RILEY AND PAULA A. WHITE	
15	Responding to Human-Carnivore Conflicts in Urban Areas	201
	PAUL D. CURTIS AND JOHN HADIDIAN	
16	Conservation of Urban Carnivores	213
	BRIAN J. CYPHER, SETH P. D. RILEY, AND RAYMOND M. SAUVAJOT	
17	Urban Carnivores: Final Perspectives and Future Directions	223
	SETH P. D. RILEY, STANLEY D. GEHRT, AND BRIAN L. CYPHER	
	<i>Appendix: List of Scientific Names</i>	233
	<i>Bibliography</i>	235
	<i>Index</i>	281

## PREFACE

Why urban carnivores? The field of urban ecology is bursting at the seams, and it does not seem necessary at this point to justify the necessity of focusing attention toward urban areas. But what is unique about carnivores in urban areas as opposed to wildlife in general?

Forman (2008) pointed out that conservationists typically focus their attention on rural or remote areas, where people are scarce, whereas urban planners are focused on cities, where people are concentrated. As urbanization and its consequences for conservation accelerate, an integration of the disciplines is needed. In many ways, studying the order Carnivora encourages linkage between rural/remote and urban areas. Some species exhibit movements that traverse the urban-rural gradient, such that policies and management of those species in one area may well influence the other. For some Carnivora, urban centers may serve as population sinks on the landscape, whereas for others, cities represent refugia and possibly even sources of migrants for precarious populations located outside urban areas.

Members of Carnivora present both similar, and unique, conservation and management problems compared with other wildlife species. For some species, issues such as fragmentation, conservation of native habitat, and roads are paramount, just as they are for many other wildlife species. But for others, especially those that occupy the top of the trophic pyramid, there are issues unique among wildlife species, the most important probably being the relationship between those top carnivores and humans. In the United States, cities are relatively new and, largely through persecution, have been devoid of wild carnivores for most of their existence. However, in recent decades, the number of larger carnivore species appearing in cities has apparently increased. This increase could be the result of efforts to conserve habitat quality and protect predators in remote/rural areas. Likewise, urban planners' emphasis on green spaces may provide opportunities for carnivores to move from rural/remote sites into the urban landscape.

These points are certainly solid arguments for the study of urban carnivores. But we would argue that the most important reason for a focus on Carnivora is visceral. It is undeniable that members of the Carnivora elicit strong feelings in people—fascination, admiration, fear, hate—unlike any other wildlife group. Hans Kruuk (2002) has suggested that our feelings toward carnivores and resulting management policies may be a manifestation of ancestral predator-prey relationships, developed during a time when we

were prey of the Carnivora. In other words, our feelings toward Carnivora were created eons ago and lie deep within each of us.

This book began as a symposium at the 2006 Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Anchorage, Alaska. There was a certain irony in presenting a symposium on urban carnivores in the least-populated state in the United States. During that conference, we solidified the concept of an edited volume, and we began recruiting contributors. Our goal for this project was to invite researchers that have conducted long-term, extensive research on a particular carnivore species within an urban environment. We have found that rarely does all information from long-term studies get presented in journal articles, so we thought that researchers with firsthand accounts would be able to provide insight that isn't currently available in existing literature. To that end, we encouraged contributors with considerable experience to go beyond the data, when appropriate, and share anecdotes or professional opinions that may at times be provocative or stimulating. We also welcomed the presentation of data that has not been previously published, both to give a fuller picture of the species or population studied and because many studies represent either long-term efforts, where new information is constantly generated, or they are recently completed projects.