



Call for Papers

Special Issue on “*Maternal Behaviour, Mother-Young and Sibling Relations in the Felidae. Commonalities and Contrasts*”

Guest Editors: **Anastasia L. Antonevich**, IEE RAS, Russia, **Robyn E. Hudson**, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México, and **Rodrigo Serra**, National Breeding Centre for Iberian Lynxes Ex Situ Conservation Program, Portugal

Feline behaviour, especially under natural or semi-natural conditions, has been understudied due to this taxonomic group’s solitary, nocturnal, and secretive nature, as well as the challenges posed by such well-armed carnivores. However, recent research across various species is beginning to fill this gap. With 41 extant species ranging in size and habitat – including the adaptable domestic cat – felines share key traits: solitary lifestyles (except lions), nocturnal or crepuscular activity, exclusive maternal care, and the birth of altricial young needing prolonged maternal care including beyond weaning. As apex predators, they play vital roles in ecosystems but often require large hunting ranges, necessitating considerable conservation efforts for their continued existence. This special issue aims to bring together recent studies by feline biologists contributing to a deeper understanding of the similarities and differences in maternal behaviour and sibling relations across diverse species of this charismatic, ecologically important and often endangered taxonomic group.

We invite contributions addressing maternal behaviour and other mother-young interactions and sibling relations, covering wild species and the domestic cat. Studies on wild or captive animals, focusing on behaviour or behavioural ecology, are welcome.

Contributions can take the form of:

Empirical studies presenting experimental evidence or observations of archival value. Perspective papers offering theoretical insights. Reviews synthesizing existing research. Anecdotal reports illustrating intriguing behavioural phenomena.

Words per paper:

5,000 to 10,000 words, not including references; Times New Roman 11, double-spaced.

Submission Procedure:

Full paper submission by 31 July 2026.

Submit your article [here](#) choosing "Special Issue: Maternal Behaviour in the Felidae" from the pull down menu.

Instructions for Authors:

See also our [Instructions to Authors](#).

Guest Editors:

Anastasia L. Antonevich, Laboratory for Behaviour and Behavioural Ecology of Mammals, Department of Biology, The A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IEE RAS), Russia

Robyn E. Hudson, Departamento de Biología Celular y Fisiología, Laboratorio de Psicobiología del Desarrollo, Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México

Rodrigo Serra, National Breeding Centre for Iberian Lynxes Ex Situ Conservation Program, Portugal