Kiawah Island Bobcat Study

The town of Kiawah Island has a special relationship with its bobcats



Wildlife on Kiawah Island

MEET OUR WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE OUR WILDLIFE RESEARCH WILDLIFE PRESS TEAM

Cause for concern

- At least 7 bobcat deaths in the past year have been attributed to second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (SGA) poisoning
- This coincides with the decline of the bobcat population on the island from 30-35 to 10 individuals over the past 3 years



Rat Poison & Wildlife

Local residents may inadvertently be poisoning our wildlife by using anticoagulant rodenticides (rat poison).





Monitor SGA concentrations in bobcats and assess patterns in bobcat behavior and survival over the next 3 years.





Assess historical patterns in bobcat behavior and demography on the island over time using historical datasets.





Assess patterns in bobcat diet to determine which prey species are most likely to contribute to SGA poisoning.





Continue monitoring of SGA concentrations in small carnivores other than bobcats over the next 3 years.



Rat Poison & Wildlife

Local residents may inadvertently be poisoning our wildlife by using anticoagulant rodenticides (rat poison).





Assess rodent species abundance, distribution and SGA concentrations across the island.



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Expected Outcomes & Benefits

- Understand impacts of rodenticides on bobcat & other wildlife mortality
- Analyze years of data to provide unprecedented insight into the ecology of bobcats on coastal islands
- Develop best practices for sustained populations of bobcats & other wildlife in developments
- Serve as a model for healthy co-existence of people & wildlife in developed areas

Costs

- 4-year project
- Ph.D. student Ms. Meghan Keating
- Technicians
- Supplies & materials
- Travel
- •\$960,000



Partners

- Town of Kiawah Island
- Kiawah Conservancy
- Clemson University
- SC Department of Natural Resources
- Pesticide Industry
- Developers



Next Steps

- Secure funding
- Put support staff in place
- July 1, 2021 begin project
- Project updates through website
- August 2025 completion of project





Support Still Needed



Monitor SGA concentrations in bobcats and assess patterns in bobcat behavior and survival over the next 3 years.

2

Assess historical patterns in bobcat behavior and demography on the island over time using historical datasets.

3

Assess patterns in bobcat diet to determine which prey species are most likely to contribute to SGA poisoning.



Continue monitoring of SGA concentrations in small carnivores other than bobcats over the next 3 years.



Assess rodent species abundance, distribution and SGA concentrations across the island. 100% funded

100% funded

25% funded

25% funded

15% funded

Questions ?

