

Feline Fragments 46 (2025)

(page checked March 2026)

Operation Cat Drop Sarawak, Borneo, Malaysia



In 1960 there was a devastating infestation of rats in the remote village of Bario in Borneo, after the spraying of insecticides such as DDT to kill off malaria-carrying mosquitoes had accidentally killed off the local cat population as well – either directly or because they'd eaten poisoned prey, or even brushed up against a sprayed surface and then licked their fur. The exploding rat population was destroying crops and food supplies and threatening the village's survival. A novel approach to the problem, in what was then a British colony, was for the Royal Air Force to carry out a parachute drop of crates containing live cats and other supplies.

The cats were brought from Singapore. Upon release, they quickly adapted to their new environment and set about dealing with the problem and restoring balance to the local ecosystem; the operation was hailed as a success. The villagers welcomed them and worked alongside the cats to protect their homes and food stores. It's thought that only some 23 cats were dropped; later claims that several thousand had been used were wildly exaggerated.

Operation Cat Drop emphasised the importance of natural ecosystems and the unforeseen consequences that can arise from human intervention in those systems. It's perhaps better understood these days that environmental management must take into account the interconnectedness of species and the potential 'ripple effect' of human actions.

[Wikipedia](#)



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Japanese Company Cats



In 2017 it was reported that an IT company in Tokyo, the Ferray Corporation, had adopted nine stray cats to help reduce office stress and improve employee well-being. Many workers live in small apartments where keeping pets isn't possible, so cats at work were welcome. The results were impressive, with employees reporting lower stress, better focus and a more relaxed, collaborative atmosphere. The cats also encourage

more communication among colleagues, and improve team spirit as they roam freely, cuddle on keyboards, steal chairs and get plenty of attention. Of course every meeting has feline supervisors!



The company even offers a monthly bonus of 5000 yen (about \$45 at the time) to anyone able to rescue and adopt a cat themselves, and they are welcome to bring their own cats in to work. The boss of the corporation says 'a love of felines' is the most important quality they look for when hiring new staff.

I thought at first this information might be out of date but, looking at the company's [website](#), it seems their 'cat programme' is still running in 2026. I believe other Japanese companies are also seeing the advantages and are allowing animals in the workplace.





[Love Meow](#) (May 2017) | [Ferray at Instagram](#) | [Twitter/X](#)

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