



Participant Information Sheet

Volunteers are sought (18 years or older) who have visited the Torremolinos promenade recently. We seek responses from a range of individuals, including tourists, regular visitors, and residents. You do not have to like cats to participate.

Title of Project: Coexistence of humans and free-living cats: conflicts and opportunities in more-than-human neighborhoods

Researcher name: Dr. Kristine Hill

Contact: kristine.hill@uhk.cz

Summary and purpose of the research:

To collect data for a study on cat-human relationships and attitudes towards unowned cats, which will ultimately help cats, people, and communities.

What would taking part involve?

- Prior to the formal part of the interview, you will be given a chance to ask questions before consenting to being recorded.
- Participation includes answering open-ended questions and sharing opinions, observations, or experiences related to cats who live along the Torremolinos promenade.
- Some demographic information relating to age, gender, occupation, residency, etc., may be requested, but you are not obligated to provide more details than you are comfortable with.
- Interviews will only be recorded with your permission, and any identifying information relating to you, or a third party will be removed or anonymised before inclusion in the study.
- You may terminate the interview at any time without providing a reason.
- Following the interview, you will be offered an anonymised transcript and given a grace period of 10 days to withdrawal from the project (by sending an email to kristine.hill@uhk.cz requesting the recording be deleted)

Where will interviews take place?

- Interviews can take place via an internet connection, using a program you are most familiar with (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Teams, Facebook, WhatsApp) or in-person at a location that is mutually comfortable for both parties (private but not secluded).

What should you consider sharing during the interview?

- Any stories relating to the cats who reside along the Torremolinos promenade are appreciated.
- Both positive and negative accounts are welcome, but please refrain from incriminating anyone in your narrative. For example, if you have witnessed animal cruelty you may describe it. However, the perpetrator need not be named here as we cannot do anything with the information.



- We are keen to hear from individuals who can provide a historical perspective on cats in the area.
- You may also choose to share cat photos and videos as a follow up (via email). Human faces would be blurred prior to publication, and images only shared with explicit consent (primarily these will be used for behavioural analysis and not shared outside of the research group).

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

Active participation in this study is voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time by informing the researcher that you no longer wish to participate. If you terminate the interview, the recording will be destroyed. You do not need to provide a reason for withdrawing. However, once you have acknowledged that you are happy with the content of a transcribed interview it may still be used in the study (depending on the status of the project and how much time has lapsed between the interview and your withdrawal request).

How will my information be kept confidential?

Your contact information (name and email) will be stored with an identifier code in a separate folder from the recorded interview and transcript (all password protected). Audio and video footage will be stored in a password protected folder and destroyed once an anonymised transcript has been produced. Contact information will be kept for research-related communication purposes only, and participants may request these be removed from the records by emailing kristine.hill@uhk.cz.

All data will be stored in a password protected University 'U' drive, and any identifying information removed prior to further analysis.

What will happen to the results of this study?

The results of this study may be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed academic journals, monographs, or book chapters, presented at conferences, and shared with interest groups and the lay public in various forms (blogs, reports, podcasts, etc.). Summaries of the research findings may also be written up for general audiences (including Spanish translations) and shared as press releases.

Who is organising and funding this study?

This project is managed by researchers affiliated with the University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, as part of an International Research Teams (IRT) award, supported by the Philosophical Faculty of University of Hradec Králové.

Who has reviewed this study?

This project has been reviewed by a board appointed by the Philosophical Faculty of the University of the Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, and approved for funding in December 2024.

Further information and contact details:

Participants are encouraged to contact the researcher for further information related to this project: kristine.hill@uhk.cz

Thank you for your interest in this project.