

# Complexity in Conservation: The Legal and Ethical Case of a Bird-Eating Cat and Its Human Killer

by

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*Note to Instructors:* This case is different from others in our collection in that there is no case, nor is there an answer key. Students are given a reading assignment which forms the basis for a role-playing activity that they will engage in in class.

For this case study, students should be provided with the following newspaper article, which is a pre-class reading assignment:

Murphy, K. 2007. Birder Admits Killing Cat, But Was It Animal Cruelty? *The New York Times*. November 14, 2007. Available online: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/14/us/14cats.html>

As the instructor desires, additional assignments could be provided. For example, as part of the pre-class assignment, students could be asked to do the following:

*“After reading the newspaper story about the cat killer, write a one-paragraph response. In this response, state whether you would convict or acquit Mr. Stevenson and explain the reasoning for your decision.”*

See the teaching notes for full details.