



Poppy, the miracle kitten. (Credit: Mountain Lion Foundation)

Dear {{FirstName or "Friend of Cats Aren't Trophies"}},

Mountain lion kittens are not just born in the spring, but throughout the year. That means that there is no safe time to shoot a female lion, because she may be nursing dependent cubs.

A mother mountain lion is one of the most affectionate and nurturing creatures on the planet. Kittens depend on her for their sustenance and protection from the moment they take their first breath, all the way up to when they reach 18-24 months old.

For the first six weeks of life, kittens stay in the den while mom leaves often to find food. As they grow, they won't be able to take down a deer or an elk until they learn how, from mom, and grow big and strong enough to feed mother nature's appetite to kill an animal triple their weight and size.

Without a mom, kittens cannot make it on their own. Starvation or predation are their fate until they have the size and skills to take prey for themselves and to defend themselves against all manner of threats.

Our story today begins with a mother mountain lion who was shot by a trophy hunter, leaving behind a litter of 4-month-old, blue-eyed and spotted babes.

One kitten survived, miraculously, emerging from the den one month after the death of her mother on the same trailhead where cruel and callous trophy hunters had shot her mother.

She was lured to an idyllic homestead by the sound of clucking chickens.

A benevolent rancher saw her bone-thin body and felt badly for her as she clawed at the chicken coop to no avail. Wildlife agency folks came and got her, and she was rehabilitated, and given a name. Poppy.

Poppy was lucky, but not really, as she ended up suffering from stunted growth and malnutrition — if her mom were left alone, she would have been raised to roughhouse with her siblings, learn from mom to take down an elk, and today be a healthy strong cat! Not bothering anyone.

Poppy's story is little known but a common occurrence given that trophy hunters kill an enormous number of female lions, often orphaning their young and typically dooming them.

Trophy hunting is all about slaying lions for trophies. But it's also about orphaning the young. The bullet that made mincemeat of her organs reverberated long after it lodged in her body or went right through it. It had the effect of putting Poppy in a death spiral.

During the last lion hunting season, just about half of the 500-plus lions killed were females. Dozens of them had dependent young.

This is the aspect of the hunt that the trophy hunters don't disclose.

And this is just one more reason why we are working so hard to qualify the Cats Aren't Trophies (CATs) ballot measure. We are working to protect adult and juvenile lions and for bobcats, too, who are killed at nearly four times the rate of the lions.

We can stop this slaughter of Colorado big cats.

Contact our team leaders to get involved. Right now, we need your help to circulate petitions to qualify our anti-trophy hunting, anti-commercial trapping ballot measure.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

We need you to fill the petition books with the names of registered voters. And please find us more recruits.

Everything is at stake for the lions, including the babies. We know you get it. We know you understand the stakes. Don't leave it up to someone else. The kittens of the future depend on you.

Thank you to the [Mountain Lion Foundation](#) for the story of Poppy.



Sincerely,
Samantha Miller
Cats Aren't Trophies, Campaign Manager

VOLUNTEER

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