

Rodrigo Villalobos / Conflict Mitigation Program, General Coordinator

Since being a child, Rodrigo has lived with domestic cats, marveling at their agility, life and behavior. This was one of the reasons why he studied Veterinary Medicine at the University of Chile. There, he became involved in the project of the Andean Cat Alliance, which led him to live alone more than a year and a half in the desolate highlands of Chile to look for the Andean cat and pumas. Thanks to this, he got the first picture of an Andean cat via camera trap in Chile in 2005.

Since then, Rodrigo has dedicated his work to the search of the Andean cat to increase its distribution area and to raise awareness in local communities about how to mitigate the conflict with carnivores.

Recently, Rodrigo received a PhD in Conservation Sciences of the University of Minnesota studying the conflict between pumas and humans in northern Chile. He has created and is the coordinator of Seeking the Andean Cat, the first documentary of Andean cat, and the Conflict Mitigation Program, where the conservation of this beautiful cat is approached in a multidisciplinary way covering areas from ecology to art, to raise awareness of its threatened status of conservation.