

KEEP CATS INDOORS!

Cats may love to go outside, but for their own good, keep them in. Although cats are smart, alert, and adroit, they are no match for the many perils that await them outside. That's why the average indoor-only cat lives up to three times longer than the cat who goes outside. Consider these threats:

- **Disease.** Feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus are only two of the diseases that are passed from cat to cat and, once contracted, result in the eventual death of the pet. And outside cats are even more likely than dogs to come into contact with rabid wild animals.
- **Parasites.** Outdoor cats suffer from fleas, ticks, ear mites, and worms that indoor cats are not generally exposed to.
- **Poisoning.** Poisons can be found in lawn chemicals, bait left out to kill rodents, auto antifreeze, and other sources.
- **Other Animals.** Fights with other cats, dogs, and wildlife often leave cats maimed or injured. And it's not just the Toms. Female cats get into fights, too, because cats are by nature territorial.
- **Cruel People.** Cats are often the victims of burning, tarring and feathering, and other tortures. Animal dealers may collect outside cats for sale to research facilities. Outside pets are at the mercy of the people they encounter.
- **Traps.** It is estimated that over 100,000 cats are caught in traps each year. Those who aren't killed may suffer for days before being released and often lose limbs from the injuries.
- **Traffic.** Most outdoor cats die prematurely from auto accidents. It is a myth that cats are "streetwise" about cars. No matter how alert, a cat is no match for a fast-moving vehicle.



- **Pet Overpopulation.** Unaltered cats allowed to roam and mate at will account for millions of the cats who must be euthanized each year because there aren't enough homes for them. Allowing unaltered animals outside is irresponsible and at the root of the terrible pet overpopulation problem.

Cats can be completely happy inside if you provide them with toys, good care, and most importantly, lots of love and attention. If you've got a kitten, start it out right by never letting him or her outside. Older cats who are used to the "great outdoors" can make the transition to being indoor cats with time and attention. For more information on the risks to outdoor cats or converting your feline to life inside, contact us at the number below. We'll be glad to help you provide your cat with a happy and safe life inside with you.

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Provided by The Humane Society of the United States.