



Indoors versus outdoors?

The average lifespan of cats that roam freely outside is 2-4 years. Unfortunately too many cat owners think it's best for their beloved pet to prowl the neighbourhood or community, making good use of their nine lives. Outdoor cats face many dangers such as:

- Vehicles
- Unfriendly dogs
- Predators such as coyotes and raccoons and some osprey
- Other cats defending their territory
- Angry neighbours who dislike cats digging and defecating in their garden
- Diseases such as feline leukemia or immunodeficiency viruses
- Fleas, ticks and other parasites
- Poisons from substances such as antifreeze or pesticides
- Sickness from eating garbage or other contaminated food
- Harsh weather that can cause frostbite in winter or dehydration in summer
- Getting lost
- Getting picked up by well meaning people who think your cat is lost or abandoned

Here are some things you can do to create an interesting, challenging and safe indoor environment for your cat.:

- Buy toys that help your cat mimic natural outdoor behaviours, such as hunting, stalking.
- Build snoozing perches above the floor and furniture – they should be built into a corner, easy and safe to reach.
- Give your cat a cardboard box for a den.
- Build an outdoor cat condo, and attach it to a window so your cat has easy access in and out.
- Tricky treat kitty balls
- Cat trees and Cat nip
- Window perches
- Build cat castles by cutting holes in large cardboard boxes and taping the boxes together.

TIP: Animal behaviorists DO NOT recommend using laser lights to play with your cat.