

## Why Should You Keep Your Cat 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 matches 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 that 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 generally not 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 tomcats. Female cats also get into fights because the very nature of cats is 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, it 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 that 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 have a kitten, start it out right by never letting him or her outside. Older cats that are used to the "great outdoors" can make the transition to being indoor cats with time and attention. Spaying and neutering cats will also help you keep them indoors.