

10 Reasons to Keep Your Cat Inside

The overwhelming source of lost and injured cats are those allowed to roam free and unattended. Other risks include:

1. **Neighbors** - When cats go outside, they may use your neighbor's yard and garden as their potty area. No one enjoys digging up cat waste in their gardens or flower boxes! If your neighbor has cats, they may see your cat outside and get excited or agitated, which may prompt them to start fighting with other cats in the house or soiling in their house. Be a good neighbor and keep your cat inside!
2. **Cars** - Thousands of cats get hit by cars every year. If they are lucky, they die instantly and don't suffer.
3. **Car engines** - Cats seek warmth. In the winter they tend to climb up inside car engines where they can be subsequently injured or die.
4. **Anti-freeze** - Cats like the sweet taste of anti-freeze, and they will lick it if able. Antifreeze is extremely toxic and your cat will die a painful death within hours of ingesting it. It can take less than a teaspoon to kill a full-size cat or dog!
5. **Fighting** - Your cat could be seriously injured or killed by dogs, raccoons, coyotes, other wildlife and even other cats.
6. **TNR** – Your cat could become part of a **TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release)** project and impounded or relocated.
7. **Diseases: FELV** - Feline Leukemia destroys a cat's immune system. It is transmitted by cats through saliva. The vaccine for FELV is only 70 to 75% effective. Some cats infected die within two years. **FIV** - Feline Immunosuppressive Virus also destroys a cat's immune system. It is transmitted through bites that draw blood and cuts a cat's lifespan in half. There is no vaccination for FIV.
8. **Parasites** - A cat allowed outside is more likely to contract heartworm from infected mosquitos. Your cat could transmit fleas, ticks, worms, ringworm and giardia to other pets and people in the household.
9. **Getting Lost** - People think that because they have lived in the same house for a number of years that their cat is too smart to wander off and get lost. NOT TRUE. People also think that because their cat has never left the front yard that it won't go any farther. Also, NOT TRUE.
10. **Getting Trapped** - Your cat could get lost in somebody else's garage or utility shed. He could suffer brain damage if trapped in extreme heat or could suffer frostbite if trapped in extreme cold.