

Top (12) Reasons to Keep Cats Indoors

BY FRANNY SYUFY

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Many cat lovers are now savvy that indoor cats are safer cats, while others still think that cats deserve the freedom to run in the great outdoors. When humans domesticated cats, we took on the responsibility for their health and welfare. Part of that responsibility is to keep cats safe and in good health. For those holdouts for letting cats roam free, consider these top reasons to keep cats indoors.

1. To Monitor Your Cat's Urinary Tract/Bowel Health



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Several years ago, we almost lost our Bubba, who was an indoor-outdoor cat at the time. Why? Because we had no litter boxes in the house, and therefore, could not monitor his painful attempts to urinate. Today, that would be a red flag warning of a potential UTI or urinary tract blockage.

By the same token, observing a cat's painful attempts to poop, or finding blood and/or mucous in the feces in the fact is a red flag for constipation, bowel blockage, or mega-colon.

2. An Indoor Cat Is Relatively Safe from Many Diseases

Cats allowed free access to the outdoors invariably come into contact with other cats. Even casual contact can transmit parasites and more serious diseases:

- FeLV (Feline Leukemia)
- FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis)
- Panleukopenia(Feline Distemper)
- FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus)
- Zoonotic Diseases

Mice your cat may eat or bring home can also cause a host of other dangerous diseases.

Rarely mentioned, but equally serious, is the possibility of skin cancer from over-exposure to the sun. White and...MORE



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3. Indoor Cats Do Not Get Hit by Cars

According to one source, more cats are killed by cars annually than are euthanized in U.S. animal shelters. Even the most careful driver cannot avoid hitting a cat that runs across the street in front of a car. Even so-called "safe" country areas are no guarantee for cats. Country cats are not as car-savvy as their city brethren, and all it takes is one misjudgment of distance or speed.



4. Indoor Cats Are Safe From Wildlife Dangers and Dog Packs

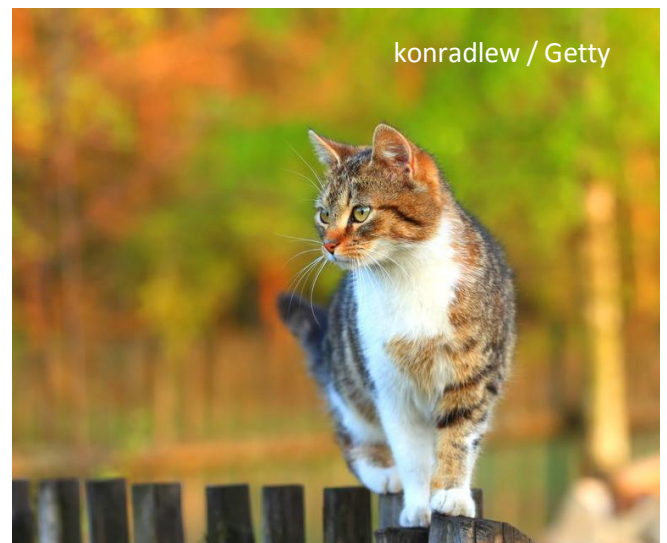
Outdoor cats are below wildlife predators in the food chain, and they are sitting ducks for owls, raptors, coyotes, and native big cats. Dogs running in packs will consider a cat fair game; even one large dog can easily overpower and kill a cat. Remember that some dogs are also bred to attack; they are not really to blame when their instinct takes over.



Even with a full set of fangs and claws, the cat rarely has a chance when caught outside, and **DECLAWED CATS** are even more at risk.

5. Indoor Cats Don't Create Neighbor Problems

Even "well-bred" cats will venture into neighbors' yards when allowed to roam free, and the resultant neighborhood discord has in some cases caused cat owners to move. People who don't like cats will not tolerate cats using their gardens as litter boxes, and will sometimes resort to extreme measures to keep the cats out. At the very least, a neighbor may call the local animal control to pick up the "stray" cat.



6. Indoor Cats Rarely Get Abscesses from Fighting

Cats are very territorial and will defend their territory to the death, if challenged by another cat. At the very least, these territorial battles often result in abscessed wounds, which can be deadly if not treated in time. There's also the chance, of course, of cats contracting FIV from deep bite wounds.



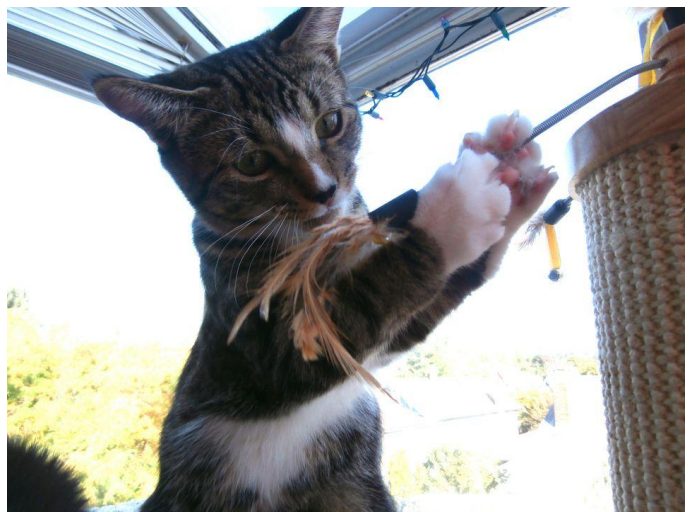
7. Indoor Cats Are Safe From Human Abuse

Freely-roaming cats are easy targets for gangs of youths with time on their hands, for cat-haters, who seek cats out for target practice, and for neighbors who would think nothing of killing a cat for trespassing on their property. Although animal protection laws are beefing up, prosecution will never bring a loved cat back to life. It's a well-known fact that serial killers often practice first with animals.



8. Indoor Cats Can Get Plenty of Exercise

Cats do get exercise, but they can get it safely toys, climbing, scratching posts, and other indoor toys; all much safer than running from dogs or fighting with other cats. Remember also that there are safe compromises for the outdoor experience.



9. Indoor Cats are not a Danger to Wildlife

Let's face it; cats are predators, and left to their own devices outdoors, will eventually chase and kill birds, rabbits, and other small wildlife. Most of us would rather not see our cats cast in a killer role, and keeping them indoors will help protect wildlife to some degree.

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10. Indoor Cats Don't Get Lost

As outdoor cats widen their outdoor territories, they may become lost long enough to be "rescued" by other cat lovers, legitimate rescue groups, or picked up by animal control as strays. Statistics show that of "owned" cats turned in to shelters; only three percent are eventually relocated with their owners. Collars can break, and even microchips do not guarantee a cat will not be adopted and kept as an indoor cat by someone else. Why take the chance?



by ocean yamaha

11. Indoor Cats Are Not Stolen

Bunchers are people who sell cats to laboratories for animal experimentation or research. Their prime source of cats is on the street. Even a cat sitting on his front lawn is fair game for a buncher. Other people pick up cats for use as "bait" for training fighting dogs. Both categories of cat-knappers are the lowest of the low, but they are out there.

So beware. Remember that an indoor cat is always safer.



12. Indoor Cats Don't Freeze in Winter

Weather conditions can change very rapidly, and mild weather can turn stormy and cold, sometimes with little notice. Cats can die quickly of hypothermia when left outside, particularly at night.

Don't gamble with your cats' lives. Keep them safely indoors, no matter what the weather outside.



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