

Tabby's Place

## IN OR OUT?

Risks of an indooroutdoor lifestyle

## Is letting my cat outside dangerous?

The short answer? Yes. Cats allowed unrestricted access to the outdoors face a multitude of dangers, including but not limited to:

Poison: Your feline may come across a variety of harmful substances, such as pesticides, chemicals (like antifreeze), or even plants that are toxic to cats. Ingestion of these can quickly be lethal.

Predators: Depending on where you live, animals such as foxes, hawks, coyotes, bears, and even dogs may view your cat as an easy target.

Disease: Outdoor cats are exposed to a variety of diseases, such as upper respiratory infections and rabies.

People: Not everyone takes kindly to freeroaming cats, and there have been many reported instances of cats being attacked, chased, or even poisoned by humans. *Traffic*: Even on quiet streets, a fast moving car can easily be lethal or severely injure your cat.

Fights with other felines: Your cat may come across strays, community cats, or other indoor/outdoor cats during their time outside, and these interactions can cause injury and spread disease.

Parasites: Fleas, ticks, and other parasites found outdoors can easily harm your feline.

Getting lost: Indoor/outdoor cats can easily go missing and are extremely difficult to locate when this happens. Some never return home.

## Keeping Your Cat Happy Indoors

It's a common misconception that cats need to go outside to keep themselves entertained and fulfilled. However, there are many ways you can provide your cat enrichment indoors, eliminating countless outside dangers.



PUZZLE FEEDERS
help engage your
cat's natural
hunting instincts



motorized toys
provide hours of
fun & keep your
kitty active



CAT TREES
give your cat
plenty of places to
climb & explore



wand toys
allow for the thrill of
the chase, entirely in
your control



## **Safety First!**

Still want your cat to experience the great outdoors? Here are some safer ways to give your cat an adventure:

Harness Training - Just like dogs, some cats enjoy taking walks outside on a leash!



**Stroller Walks** - Allow your cat to experience all the sights, sounds, and smells of nature from the safety of a securely enclosed stroller.

**Window Perches** - Suction cup perches or a cat tree next to a window lets your cat watch the world from the safety of your home.



**Catios** - A secure enclosure attached to your home allows your cat to go outdoors whenever they choose.