

The Dangers of Letting Your Indoor Cat Go Outdoors

1. Risk of contracting diseases from other animals such as FIV, FeLV, FVR, FCV, FIP
2. Risk of contracting mange, ringworm, giardia, coccidia and intestinal parasites.
3. Risk of fighting with other cats resulting in injury or cause painful bacteria filled abscess.
4. Risk of being attacked by dogs, coyotes, foxes, poisonous snakes, large predatory birds and alligators.
5. Risk of being victim of a rabid raccoon or other rabid animals.
6. Risk of being harmed by other humans by capturing and physically causing harm or death.
7. Risk of being intentionally poisoned by humans or even accidental.
8. Risk of eating plants that are toxic for cats.
9. Risk of coming in contact with pesticides, herbicides, slug bait, snail bait and rat/mouse poison.
10. Risk of secondary poisoning after killing or consuming a rat/mouse that has eaten poison.
11. Risk of being involved in a car accident.
12. Risk of contracting leptospirosis from drinking contaminated water from infected an animal.
13. Risk of picking up fleas and ticks and therefore tick-borne illnesses.
14. Risk of getting lost from roaming to far from home.
15. Risk of being trapped and removed from the neighborhood and dumped by a disgruntled neighbor.
16. Risk of being shot with BB guns, arrows and shotguns.
17. Risk of ear mites.
18. Risk of roaming in a neighbors shed or garage & accidentally getting closed in causing overheating.
19. Risk of Hyperthermia or frostbite in the winter or Dehydration and heat stroke in the summer.
20. Risk of someone stealing your cat as their own or giving it away to someone else.

It is estimated that the average lifespan of a free-roaming outdoor cat is less than three years, compared to 12-15 years for the average indoor-only cat. Virtually everything your cat needs - play, exercise, proper nutrition, rest, and companionship - can be readily had indoors. Your cat does not need to go outside to feel complete, and you should not feel guilty if you've chosen an indoor lifestyle for her. The notion that a cat must roam free to be happy is a myth that may end her life prematurely. She can get all of the fresh air and sunshine she needs safely under your supervision. Cat trees, scratching posts, window perches, cardboard boxes, cat toys are all available in different styles and colors to fit your décor and will appeal to your cat's interest. Some cats do much better with another pet companion such as another cat or even a dog. Believe or not, some cats love to watch TV! Special videos for cats will provide hours of mental stimulation. Many things are available to keep your cat happy and healthy indoors under your supervision at all times. This increases your cat's lifespan while saving you lots of money due to vet costs or even worse, the loss of your pet.

FIV=Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, FeLV=Feline Leukemia Virus, FVR=Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, FCV=Feline Calicivirus, FIP=Feline Infectious Peritonitis

