



Maricopa County
Animal Care and Control

DON'T LET THE CAT OUT!



An indoor cat lives a longer, healthier life than a cat that lives outdoors.

WHY IS THAT?

- Indoor cats never face the danger of other cats ready to fight for love or territory.
- Indoor cats don't get run over by cars.
- Indoor cats aren't exposed to diseases and parasites common to outdoor cats.
- Indoor cats don't get sick from eating spoiled food or poison.

OUTDOOR CATS GO TO THE VETRINERIAN MORE OFTEN!

- Outdoor cats are exposed to fleas, ticks, worms, abscesses and cuts that require treatment.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CAT IS SICK?

- Symptoms of a sick cat include a dull coat, diarrhea and weight loss. These are seen more often in outdoor cats than indoor cats.

MY CAT RAN AWAY FROM HOME, WHAT DO I DO?

- Protect your cat before it runs away. Buy it a collar a pet identification tag. If someone finds your cat they will know where to return it.

WILL MY CAT BE HAPPY IF I KEEP IT INDOORS?

- Cats raised indoors are perfectly content with their world. They feel loved and cared for.

LETTING THE CAT OUT... OR NOT

Thanks to the creation and marketing of cat litter since the mid 1940's, more and more cats have become indoors-only pets.

Indoor cats live longer

- The average indoor cat lives to be 10 years old,
- Many of us know felines who are older than 20
- Outdoor-only cats survive for an average of only 2 years

Homes offer a safer, healthier environment:

- No ticks and fleas
- No run-ins with wild animals
- No dangers from moving vehicles

Provide stimulation for your indoor cat:

- Scratching and climbing posts become trees
- Interactive toys become hunted birds, bugs and field mice
- A rotating array of cat playthings provides excitement, unpredictability and exercise

For more information on animal care, behavior or MCACC programs, contact
(602) 506-PETS or visit pets.maricopa.gov
Excerpts from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Cats International.

TAKING THEM TO THE STREET

Many cat lovers still prefer to share the great outdoors with their feline friends. There are several ways to minimize the risks.

Get your cat vaccinated.

- The soil of a garden or yard can harbor diseases, for months in some cases, spread by stray, unvaccinated cats.
- Rabies has spread to much of the country, transmitted mainly through altercations with wildlife.

Spend time safely outside.

- Harness-train your cat
- Provide a screened-in enclosure or fenced-in yard topped with cat-proof netting.

HOLD THE LINE

Harness training, like many things, is easiest taught during kitten hood. But some adult cats can acclimate to it.

For more information on harness training, talk to your vet, you local cat store, or do some research.

CAT ENCLOSURES

The most successful structures usually feature climbing and resting furniture inside. A shaded area is necessary for warm or hot weather.

Whether you choose an outdoor cat enclosure or add cat-proof netting to the top of traditional fencing, remember that they are safest used only when you are at home and outdoors with your cats or able to check on them often.

Do some research before you build a cat enclosure.

KEEP YOUR CAT SAFE AND HEALTHY:

- Even though it is not required, get a rabies vaccination for your cat.
- Your cat should see the veterinarian at least once a year for an examination and annual shots, and immediately if she is sick or injured.
- Get your cat spayed or neutered. It keeps them healthy and prevents the urge to roam.
- Buy a collar and id tag for your cat and leave them on her at all times. You never know when she may accidentally get out.
- Consider getting a microchip for your cat. If she does get out, her collar may get caught on something and break loose.