

Indoor/Outdoor Cats

In some cases, cats exhibit behavioral challenges that seem remedied only with outdoor exposure. If outdoor time is a must for your cat, consider these options:

- **Use a Harness** (try a “Come With Me Kitty Harness & Bungee Leash”)
- **Cat-Proof Fencing** (see www.purrfectfence.com for a good example)
- **Use Special Screened Enclosures or “Catios”** (build your own or just search online for “outdoor cat enclosures” – you’ll be amazed at what’s out there!)
- **Keep them inside for at least a month** to allow them to bond to you and their new home before letting them outside. Start with short introductions to the outside before allowing them to stay outside longer.

The outside world can be a dangerous place for cats, exposing them to a number of threats including:

- Predators (from dogs to wildlife)
- Automobile traffic
- Disease and parasites
- Getting lost or trapped somewhere or wandering away from home
- People who may not approve of a cat “trespassing” on their property (we recommend talking to your neighbors so they know you have a new cat they may see around)

Likewise, free-roaming cats can pose a danger to other animals – most significantly to birds.

Remember, house and domestic cats are not a natural part of the predator/prey “circle of life”. Even in small numbers, cats can have a significant effect on local bird populations.

At a minimum:

- Try not to let your cat out at night
- Be sure they’re always wearing a safety collar (Breakaway cat collars are the most safe because if your cat gets snagged they can break free)
- Make sure they have up-to-date tags and vaccinations
- Keep their microchip registration information up to date



Link to article:
[Pros and Cons of Letting Your Cat Outdoors](#)