



HSCC Position Statement: Indoor vs. Outdoor Living for Cats

Position Statement: HSCC advocates indoor only living for cats. Although cats may enjoy the natural elements of the outdoors, a cat that has been acclimated or raised indoors usually has no strong desire to be outdoors. Likewise, a cat that is accustomed to the outdoors can lead a fulfilled stimulated life indoors.

The life expectancy alone is ample reason to keep your cat inside. The average lifespan of an outdoor cat is less than 3 years. However, the average life span of an indoor cat ranges from 15 – 18 years. This is directly attributable to the risks involved in letting your cat out side.

Consequences:

- Hit by a car
- Exposed to Diseases (Rabies, Felv, FIP, FIV)
- Attacked by other animals (dogs, cats or wildlife)
- Exposed to weather elements (heat , snow, ice)
- Ingesting deadly poisons (treated lawns, antifreeze, and rat bait)
- Encountering an adult or child with malicious intent
- Danger to wildlife (birds, small animals)
- Cat becomes lost

What You Can Do:

Playing regularly with a cat satisfies their stalking instinct, keeps them stimulated, and provides the exercise they need to stay healthy and happy in addition to keeping them protected from the risks outdoors.

Providing windows to look from and even growing cat grass is a nice treat for your cat and can bring an element of the outdoors in.

Resources:

HSCC adoption Counselor
http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/cat_care/keep_your_cat_safe_at_home_hsuss_safe_cats_campaign/index.html