



The indoor-outdoor controversy.

For years there has been great debate among cat owners as to whether or not cats should be allowed outdoors.

In today's world beliefs that cats need freedom to roam are fading very quickly as stats show that the life span of an indoor cat is much and far longer than cats that are allow free roaming outdoors.

The decision of course as to whether or not a cat should be an indoors or outdoor cat is always and

ultimately up to each cat owner, however the pros and cons provide enough evidence that the known statement "An Indoor cat is a safe cat" proves to be true. Studies show that the life span of indoor cat is 14 years or longer and in some cases we see cats that live well into their twenties, while the life span of an outdoor cat is with a lot of luck no more than 5 years.

Outdoors cats are exposed to many dangers such as, traffic, pesticides, car motor products such as antifreeze, poisonous plants, fatal and incurable diseases such as Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP).

Panluekopenia (Feline Distemper), Liver flukes, Toxoplasmosis, Parasites, Ringworm (a fungus NOT a worm, can be transmitted to humans) and of course Fleas in itself can be hosts for a variety of diseases that can be transmitted to cats. Dogs and human predators that kill cats just for pleasure or sport as well as wild life predators are also a huge danger to outdoor cats.

With today's downfall in the economy we must also add to the list of dangers humans needing a buck and looking for pets to sale to research as well as humans looking for cats to use as bait in dogs fights.

Halloween being a very dangerous and bad time specially for black, orange and yes even white cats, as these cats are use and killed by people that practice satanic rituals and use animals for sacrifices.

Outdoors cats are also prone to becoming lost.

Not everyone is a cat lover therefore neighbors who object to a roaming cat who may defecate or urinate in their garden are another problem, which is easily solved with keeping your cat indoors.

Neighborhood spats often arise from issues involving cats – if a cat lives indoors, then the potential for neighbor trouble is diminished.

In truth beliefs that cats require the freedom to roam outdoors have really NO pros.

Beliefs that indoor cats tend to be overweight and lazy is absolutely not true.

As long as the cat is fed quality food and play time is provided the cat will not be overweight nor lazy.

Well keep in mind that laziness comes with cats territory whether outdoor or indoor, adults cats usually sleep 18 hours out of a 24 hour day!

Some cat owners claim that their cat loves the outdoors, of course they do!

And the outdoor world can be introduced to an indoor cat in more ways then one!

The danger really outweighs the benefits for free roaming cats, it is just not worth it to risk the lives of your precious kitties.

Views that cats need freedom are today outdated and outranked by most animal professionals such as veterinarians and animal welfare groups.

The dangers are too great as stated above, there are just no benefits to outdoor cats, just none whatsoever, therefore responsible cat owners are urged to do what

is best for the cat, in this case the best is to keep your cat indoors or not to let your cat out anymore.

Cat owners uncertain about keeping a pet indoors can give their cat the best of both worlds by offering outdoor experiences in controlled situations.

Contrary to what most cat owners think, it is possible to train a cat to a leash and harness.

This allows cats to be walked in the same manner as many dogs and offers outdoor exercise beneficial for both cat and owner.

Enclosures are also very in these days and they come in a variety of shapes and sizes.

If you have an enclosure or if you are buying one or building one if you are a little handy, please keep in mind that cats are susceptible to skin cancer therefore it is important to offer the cat protection from the sun and provide a shaded covered area.

An ideal cat enclosure will contain enough space for the cat to move around comfortably, climbing options, and a resting area. A shady area is best as mentioned above so that the cat can enjoy fresh area even on the warmest days. Every cat enclosure should be covered with material that cannot be breached by the cat. Nylon mesh and chicken wire are two of the most inexpensive, effective options.

Cat owners should also consider that indoor cats are healthier, often happier, and live much longer than outdoors cats allowed the freedom to roam. However, if you absolutely must allow your cat to roam outside it is important to ensure the cat is brought indoors from dusk to dawn, as this is often when most danger exists and is also when cats tend to be most active therefore most likely to get into trouble. Less than 5% of cats taken to animal shelters are reclaimed by owners and most have no identification whatsoever.

If you do allow your cat outdoors please be sure that they wear proper ID tags and collars which should be the breakaway type.

Since collars often become lost it is wise to have your pet microchipped to ensure his safe return, however even with a chip, ID tags should always be on as IT IS NOT ALWAYS THAT MICROCHIPS ARE SCANNED.

Many States have different laws for free roaming cats, so it's important that you check local laws for your City and State pertaining to outdoor cats.

There is no statement such as this one that is valid: "I cannot keep my cat indoors, she or he will just not stay inside."

Your cat may cry and cry and meow and be mad at you and the world but if you do not open that door there is just no way the cat can get out!

Eventually everyday the cry and meowing will be less and less and usually after 4 weeks of being inside the drive for going outdoors will fade and he or she will be happy and content by just watching the outdoor world through the indoor window or safe enclosure.

It is important however that your cat is spayed or neutered for this to be accomplished, this way the drive for going outdoors to satisfy the need that they do not need, will go away faster and for good.

We at HPR thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being a responsible cat owner and for doing what is best for your cat regardless of what your cat tells you. Please feel free to call us or e-mail us @: HPRESQ@aol.com with any questions you may have.

We are always here to help you and your pet.

And remember and INDOOR CAT IS A SAFE CAT!

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