



HOW TO KEEP YOUR CAT SAFE AT HOME



DID YOU KNOW...



two in three cat owners have lost a cat in a roaming-related accident?

You can protect your cat from being hit by a car, from catching disease and parasites, from getting lost or stolen, or injured in cat fights and dog attacks by preventing them from roaming away from home.

The good news is you can meet all your cat's needs at home! Your cat's at-home lifestyle can be full of enriching activities that keep them happy, healthy, fit and active.

While it's easiest to start from the very beginning when you first bring home a new cat or kitten, any cat can transition to an at-home lifestyle with some patience and planning.



There are several options for keeping your cat safe at home:

INDOORS

Keeping your cat indoors is often the simplest and cheapest way to prevent them from roaming and many people living in apartments do this very successfully. An exclusively indoor lifestyle works well if you can meet all your cat's needs inside your home:

- 🐾 Food
- 🐾 Water
- 🐾 Scratching posts
- 🐾 Litter trays
- 🐾 Hideouts with soft bedding, including some that are up off the ground (e.g., cupboard, box, open cat carrier)
- 🐾 Chances to climb (e.g., shelves, on top of furniture, climbing posts and platforms)
- 🐾 Play time including opportunities to stalk, chase, pounce and catch toys and treats
- 🐾 Human-cat interaction (e.g., patting, grooming)

Even a small home can be fun and interesting for your cat by making the most of vertical space and offering opportunities to interact and play. Cat-proof fly screens can allow your cat to safely experience outdoor sights, smells and sounds.

SAFE OUTDOOR ACCESS

Many cats benefit from safe access outdoors – all the sights, sounds and smells can be great enrichment! There are several ways to give your cat the best of both worlds while keeping them safe:

1. Outdoor enclosure (catio)

A netted or wire mesh catio can give your cat the outdoor experience and give you peace of mind. These can be attached to your cat's indoor space via a window or cat flap.

- 🐾 Get creative! Catio designs can suit any outdoor space – large or small.
- 🐾 Locate your catio somewhere safe (out of sight of dogs and other cats)
- 🐾 Help your cat get the most out of their outdoor space by providing elevated places to hide, rest and play (e.g., platforms, scratching towers, hammocks)
- 🐾 Note that even though many cats will enjoy watching birds and other creatures from a distance, it's best not to locate birdbaths or birdfeeders too close to the catio so your cat doesn't get scared or frustrated.

Need inspiration? Visit catnets.com.au

2. Escape-proof fencing

- 🐾 Many products are available to help you make an escape-proof outdoor space. You could set up a new solid fence with an escape-proof top or retrofit over an existing fence.
- 🐾 Examples of escape-proof tops include netting, rolling cylinders, sheeting (smooth metal or plastic) and inward-inclined wire
- 🐾 Make sure to regularly check for escape routes (e.g., gaps in the fence, overhanging trees)
- 🐾 You can prevent your cat from using trees to hop the fence by fixing a smooth metal or plastic band around the trunk $\geq 2\text{m}$ high

3. Supervised play time and adventures on a harness might not suit every cat, and will require some careful training and time to get used to, but can be very enriching for some cats where a catio is not an option.