How to turn your Outdoor Cat into a Happy Indoor Cat!

Other tips for happy indoor cats

1. Trim your cat’s claws every one to two weeks. Provide a scratch post and the cat will prefer that to the furniture. Do not de-claw your cat.
2. Provide one litter pan per cat and scoop the litter pan at least once daily.
3. Brush your cat. Most cats love to be brushed and it helps to avoid hairballs.
4. Play with your cat. Cats like attention and enjoy playing with a wiggling string or hiding in a paper sack.
5. Refresh and refill water once daily.
6. Keep dry food available for snacking because your cat will pace herself.
7. Spay or neuter your cat for a calm content pet.
8. Give your cat a window perch where he can sun himself and see out.

Indoor Cats Miss:
1. Being hit by a car.
2. Angry neighbor
3. Hurt in cat fight
4. Parasites
5. Diseases
6. Poisons
7. Cat-napped
8. Abused
9. Stuck up a tree
10. Attacks by Coyotes

“Pledge to keep cats & wildlife safe”
Sign the HSUS pledge www.humanesociety.org
“Cats who are outdoors can be harmful to birds and other wildlife -- animals that deserve protection just as much as cats.”
Humane Society US

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Keep your cat Safe at Home.
Those with cats are responsible for their pets behavior and well-being. Albuquerque and surrounding communities have ordinances requiring that you license, vaccinate and neuter your cat. These ordinances also require that your cat be kept confined to your home or property, either inside the home or within an escape proof fenced area.

Central New Mexico P.O. Box 30002
Audubon Society Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002
http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

The Humane Society of the United States Says:
“Keeping a cat inside is one of the best ways to ensure a long and healthy life. It’s a myth that going outside is a requirement for a healthy feline. We call on all cat households to keep pet cats indoors”
**Bringing your outdoor cat IN!**

Although it takes patience and time, an outdoor cat can become a perfectly content indoor pet. Some people transition their cat from outdoors to indoors gradually, bringing them inside for increasingly longer stays. Other people bring the cat in and shut the door for good. Either way, the key to success is to provide lots of attention and stimulation while the cat is indoors.

Substitute outside excursions with periods of special play time. Most cats need human companionship to be happy, and when they spend all their time out of doors, they get very little attention. An outdoor cat may welcome the indoors if he or she gets more love, attention, and play.

Your geographic location may affect the way you bring about this change; choose a good time of year to bring the cat indoors. In many parts of the country, the easiest time of year to make this conversion is during the cold winter months when your cat is more likely to want to be inside anyway. By the end of winter, your cat may be completely content to remain inside.

To keep your cat occupied indoors, provide areas that offer interesting places to lounge and play. You should also provide scratching posts, corrugated cardboard or sisal rope for your cat to scratch. [www.pawschicago.org](http://www.pawschicago.org)

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**Offer your cat interesting toys**

To encourage your ex-outdoor cat to exercise, offer interesting toys, especially those that are interactive, such as a long pole with an attached line that has fabric at the end. Some cats enjoy searching for toys. If your cat likes to explore the house hide toys in various places so your cat can find them throughout the day. Most of all Spend Time with Your Cat!

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**Safe outdoor enclosure**

If your cat remains stubbornly committed to life outdoors, help them adjust by providing an outdoor covered enclosure or run that the cat can access through a window or pet door. Such a facility gives the cat some of the advantages of being outside while minimizing the dangers. You can make the outdoor enclosure interesting and appealing adding objects multilevel cat condos & toys.

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**Leash Train Your Cat**

Leash-train your cat so you can supervise its time outside. Buy your cat a cat harness not a collar and spend a week letting him wear the harness in the house. Attach the leash and carry the cat outside before allowing him to explore. Although cats can be leashed trained, they will not trot at your side like a dog, stopping often to check things out. [http://www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)

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**Web Links for Cat Enclosures:**

Cat Enclosure Kit: [www.cdpets.com](http://www.cdpets.com)  
[www.catsondeck.com](http://www.catsondeck.com) / [www.kittywalk.com](http://www.kittywalk.com)

Make existing fences escape proof.  
[www.PurrfectFence.com](http://www.PurrfectFence.com)  
[www.catfencein.com](http://www.catfencein.com) / [www.catfence.com](http://www.catfence.com)  
Enclosure plans: [www.catandcaboodle.com](http://www.catandcaboodle.com)  
Fence plans: [www.feralcat.com/fence.html](http://www.feralcat.com/fence.html)

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