



Tasmanian  
Cat  
Management  
Project

# Keeping your cat healthy and happy at home

The fact is, the more time a pet cat spends safe at home, the less risk of injury or death from road accidents, fighting, and disease. A pet cat kept safe at home can live up to four times longer than a cat left to roam.

- Australian Veterinary Association



## Indoor cats are safe from:

**CARS.** Cats can be injured or killed, or cause an accident, if allowed near roads. Data suggest that roaming cats cross on average 4.8 roads per day.

**CAT FIGHTS.** The most common injury from cat fights is an abscess. Abscesses are incredibly painful and can require costly veterinary treatment.

Diseases such as Feline AIDS and feline leukemia virus can also be transmitted during cat fights.

**WILDLIFE.** Prevent your cat from hunting wildlife as well as reducing the risk of your cat contracting ticks and worms from other animals.

**SOME DISEASES.** Indoor cats are protected from contracting and spreading diseases such as toxoplasmosis.

**DOGS.** Cats can be killed or seriously injured in dog attacks.

## Keeping your indoor cat happy

Cats can live happily indoors as long as they have food and water, a litter tray and lots of environmental enrichment such as climbing and scratching poles, toys and of course your love and attention.

If your cat has enjoyed being outside for many years you can gradually increase its time spent indoors over an extended period. For great information on how to transition your existing cat or a new cat/kitten to staying safe at home visit [www.safecat.org.au](http://www.safecat.org.au)

# Ways you can keep your indoor cat entertained include:



## High resting places:

Cats love to perch up high as it allows them to survey their surroundings and makes them feel secure.

## Enclosed spaces:

Cats love to hide. It allows them to get away from people and other animals.

## Bedding:

Cats like to spend a lot of time sleeping and resting in quiet areas where they feel safe and secure.

## Toys and activities:

- ▶ Provide your cat with somewhere to perch near a window.
- ▶ Provide your cat with a play tunnel to explore.
- ▶ Leave some empty cardboard boxes around to allow for your cat to explore.
- ▶ Leave a few ping pong balls around – including one in the bathtub.

**DO NOT** leave string, ribbon or plastic bags out for your cat to play with unsupervised.

Cats can easily get into trouble with these and end up at the veterinary clinic undergoing very expensive life saving surgery.

**If you want your cat to spend some time outdoors on your property, there are a number of outdoor cat containment solutions to choose from that will keep your cat safe from wandering off.**

- 1)** Some cats enjoy going for a walk on a harness outside with their owner.

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- 2)** Install cat proof fencing around your yard.

A cat fence is specially designed to prevent your cat from scaling the fence, giving it full access to your yard to enjoy some fresh air.

This is an ideal option for people with small yards.

There are a number of ready-to-install cat fencing options on the market.

Or if you're DIY savvy, try building your own.

- 3)** Install a cat enclosure on your patio or in your garden.

Cat enclosures extend your cat's access from indoors to outdoors for some sunshine and fresh air.

Enclosures come in many shapes and sizes, depending on your needs. From simple cat netting around your patio, to a free standing enclosure in your garden.

There are many ready-to-install enclosures and accessories available.

Or why not build one yourself?

Cost can be kept to a minimum by using second hand building material.

## LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Cat fencing, netting, enclosure products and accessories:

[www.oscillot.com.au](http://www.oscillot.com.au)

[www.catnets.com.au](http://www.catnets.com.au)

[www.backyardcatenclosures.com.au](http://www.backyardcatenclosures.com.au)

[www.catnip.com.au](http://www.catnip.com.au)

[www.catmax.com.au](http://www.catmax.com.au)

[www.catsafe.com.au](http://www.catsafe.com.au)

Enclosure ideas:

[www.catsofaustralia.com/cat-enclosures.htm](http://www.catsofaustralia.com/cat-enclosures.htm)

For more information visit: [www.tassiecat.com](http://www.tassiecat.com)

Thanks to Kingborough Council for their great information on keeping cats happy at home.

