

Indoor Outdoor

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) recommends that pet cats be kept indoors. Cats that are kept indoors can live longer, healthier lives. However, if your new feline friend seems to be more intrigued by the outdoors, there are safe ways to soothe that urge to be in the “wild”. You may try to take some time to leash train your furry companion. If a kitty is leash trained, they can tag along in walks to the park or around the neighborhood. Some cat owners even put the cat on a leash to bring them out on the patio to look outside. Leash training is a great way to prevent your cat from getting loose while also allowing them to indulge in some sunshine and chirping birds.

Cat Patios are another nice option. Cat Patios or “Catios” are safe and fun outdoor enclosures that are usually screened in so that the cat is secure and cannot get too far from home. If a cat is raised indoors, there is a good chance that it will have a lower survival rate if left to fend for themselves outdoors. ESPECIALLY if they are declawed. As you may know, many pests and parasites can be found in the grass and soil on your front lawn. Keeping this in mind, it is recommended that you speak to your vet about flea and tick prevention before allowing your cat to play in the grass. Please understand that most cats can jump as high as 5-6 times their height. Unsupervised outdoor play is not recommended, no matter how high your fence may be.

With that being said, Indoor kitties do still need just as much stimulation as an outdoor cat does. A bored cat can mean behavioral issues or depression. Be sure to spend as much time with your feline friend as possible and try to set aside at least 30 minutes to an hour of play time daily. Invest in some fun cat toys like Cat Dancers, plastic balls, crinkle toys, and fake mice. Try teaching your cat how to play fetch!

