**What you can do**

**How to keep your cat indoors**

Although it’s easiest to raise your cat to stay indoors as a kitten, it IS possible to train an adult!

To transition an outdoor cat to indoor life:

- Familiarize your cat to a scratching post and litter box first, and transition them slowly
- Feed your cat indoors, keeping them inside for increasingly longer times after feeding
- Discourage cats from running outside by squirting them with water
- Give cats stimulating toys to help foster their natural behaviours (e.g. hunting-based toys, a cat tree or jungle for climbing), play with your cat, and try giving them catnip
- Bring the outdoors inside
  - Provide a sunny window perch
  - Try growing cat grass
  - Provide hiding places
- Make the indoors comfortable
  - Keep the litter tray clean
  - Keep eating, drinking, litter, resting, and hiding places well-separated
  - Consider a second cat as a playmate

**Safe outdoor options:**

- Provide a screen-enclosed outside area
- Harness train them for outdoor walks
- Ensure your cat has an ID tag or microchip and is spayed/neutered

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**CHECK OUT THESE USEFUL RESOURCES**

- @SafeCatSafeBird
- catsandbirds.ca

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**IS YOUR CAT SAFE OUTDOORS?**

Know the risks and how to protect your pet, local birds, and our natural heritage.

- spca.bc.ca/pet-care/care-behaviour/cats
- goo.gl/QVfvPT
- petfinder.com/cats/cat-care
As many as 40% of domestic cats spend time roaming outdoors, but these cats encounter many dangers and have significantly lower life expectancies.

RISKS TO CATS OUTDOORS:
- Being hit by a car
- Becoming lost
- Abuse
- Frostbite
- Parasites (e.g. fleas, ticks)
- Disease (e.g. feline leukemia, feline aids, heartworm, rabies)
- Poisoning (e.g. from garden plants, antifreeze, rat poison)
- Injury from fights with other animals

Your cat is in DANGER outside

BIRDS are at risk

Birds are more than just a pretty song; they help to pollinate plants, disperse seeds, and control insect pests. Unfortunately, cats are the leading cause of direct, human-related songbird mortality. Vulnerable birds include many species at risk (e.g. Barn Swallow and Wood Thrush). Roaming cats have already contributed to the extinction of 34 species of birds.

Our NATURAL HERITAGE is at risk

Cats are a non-native species in North America and can negatively impact local ecosystems. In addition to killing birds, cats prey on other wildlife including small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, and can also transmit diseases. Loss of wildlife impacts other species such as native carnivores, and destabilizes the food web. This problem is exacerbated by increasing numbers of stray and feral cats.

DID YOU KNOW?
- Each domestic outdoor cat kills an estimated 4-18 birds and 8-21 small mammals per year

DID YOU KNOW?
- A bell on your cat's collar only reduces bird kills by 40-50%