

INDOOR CATS LIVE LONGER, BETTER LIVES

Your cat may tell you the great outdoors is lots of fun...grass to roll in, trees to climb. However, cats, like children, depend on us to recognize danger and protect them from harm.

In addition to grass and fresh air, the outdoor poses many risks to your pets, risks that are sometimes lethal. These risks include:

Traffic	Cruelty	Poison
Fights with other Animals	Traps	Disease

If your cat is lucky enough to survive the not-so-great outdoors, will you be able to afford the medical expenses / care required to get him healthy again? You can treat fleas, but not disease like feline leukemia. Cats can suffer significant gastro-intestinal injuries due to the ingestion of poison. What will it take to treat that? Will they survive? If attacked by another animal or hit by a car. Your cat may suffer injuries requiring surgery. How much will that cost? Will you be able to afford it? Or will your cat lose its life because of the decision you made to let him outdoors?

Recently, FOHA was called upon to help two cats in need. Both had been outside and suffered injuries requiring surgery. Kooleyo was attacked by another animal, and his injuries were severe. He had to have one leg amputated. Then an infection to facial injuries required the removal of an eye. FOHA was called upon to rescue Kooleyo from being euthanized when his owners were unwilling or unable to pay for the second surgery.

Fuzzy Valentine's crushed leg had to be amputated – it was beyond repair. She was slated to be put to sleep as well, but FOHA stepped in. Fuzzy had her amputation surgery on February 14th – hence her name. She is an adorable sweetheart who loves snuggles, has no problem at all maneuvering up and down stairs or up into bed for a cuddle.

Both Kooleyo and Fuzzy are lucky ones – to have found their way to FOHA and, now, to forever homes.

Sixteen reasons to keep cats indoors

1. cats are less likely to be hit by a car when crossing the living room than when crossing the street;
2. their owners are less apt to have fleas, fungus, or rabies than free roaming cats;
3. their owners are less likely to be bitten than free roaming cats;
4. there is less chance of getting caught in a steel-jaw, leg hold trap;
5. when it's ten o'clock at night, their owners will always know where they are;
6. birds will like them better;
7. crotchety neighbors will like them better;
8. they will never come home looking like something the cat dragged in;
9. it will be more difficult for people to steal them;
10. they will not get shot at as often;
11. they will not disappear as often;
12. their owners will never have to bail them out of the local pound;
13. they sleep most of the day anyway;
14. their owners will not have to go calling all over the neighborhood for them when it's time for dinner;
15. their owners will not find as many dead, dying or dismembered small animals on the doorstep;
16. they will live longer, happier lives, and so will their owners.