



## indoor vs outdoor living

IndyHumane advocates for indoor living for the cats we adopt into loving homes. While many cats are uniquely capable of taking care of themselves outside, indoor living leads to a much higher quality of life for the entire family!

If you have a farm, barn, warehouse, or other living situation which would benefit from an outdoor or indoor/outdoor cat, contact our community cat program at [indyhumane.org/TNR](http://indyhumane.org/TNR).

### keeping your cat indoors

**lengthens their lifespan.** The average indoor cat lives 15 years. Depending on the study, allowing a cat access to the outdoors decreases its lifespan by 1/2 to 2/3; that's 7 to 10 less years with your cat!

**shields your cat from diseases and parasites.** Indoor cats are not at risk to contract FeLV or FIV. While FIV is not as serious a disease, FeLV can significantly shorten a cat's lifespan. Indoor cats have a much lower risk to contract ringworm, giardia, coccidia, and other zoonotic diseases.

Fleas are the most obvious parasite outdoor cats are exposed to. Cats with access to the outdoors can bring fleas into your home. Fleas can also transmit tapeworms to your cat (when your cat ingests a flea during grooming).

**protects your cat from fighting and injury.** Cats are territorial. While your cat will be spayed/neutered and may not engage in territorial behaviors, the other cats around your home might not be! Cats also come into conflict with and can be gravely injured or killed by many native species including snakes, racoons, and coyotes.

**eliminates injury from cars.** One of the biggest dangers to outdoor cats is traffic.

**safeguards human health.** Many of the diseases and parasites that outdoor cats are exposed to can be transmitted to their human family members.

**costs less.** If your cat contracts a disease or is injured, the cost of care at a veterinarian can be steep. If your cat brings home a zoonotic disease, family members may need to see a doctor as well. Treating your home for a flea infestation can be expensive, too.

**prevents hunting.** Cats are not native predators in North America. Keeping cats inside helps the songbird population.

**improves relationships with your neighbors.** Cats obey nature's call in the nearest loose substrate. This means that your cat is going to turn the nearest kids' sandbox, mulched garden plot, flower bed, etc. into a toilet. Don't let your cat be a nuisance!