



Jasper County Animal Rescue League and Humane Society
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The Outside Cat

JCARL discourages letting your cat outdoors without constant human supervision. Listed below are just a few things that your cat might be exposed to if left to wander alone outside:

- Automobile traffic (a 2000 pound truck versus an 8 pound cat). You do the math.
- Other animals like dogs and cats that may chase, fight, harm, or kill your cat.
- Fatal diseases like feline leukemia, FIP, FIV just to name a few, that can be passed to your cat by fighting, mating, or just walking through the feces of an infected cat.
- Other medical problems like upper respiratory infections, ringworm, an infected abscess, all are treatable but cost money and ringworm can transfer to humans and other animals.
- Parasites like fleas, ticks, worms, ear mites are very easy to catch and hard to get rid of, especially fleas in the house.
- Poisons commonly found in someone's garage. Cats are drawn to antifreeze and it only takes 2 drops to kill a cat in a matter of minutes.
- Unhappy neighbors that set traps or poison to prevent your cat from eliminating in their garden or getting into their trash.
- Encountering children or adults with cruel or harmful intentions.
- Being stolen and sold to a lab for experimental testing.

Things to Remember:

- ./ Fences do not keep your cat in your yard. No matter what type or how high, a cat will find a way to climb out. Build an outdoor enclosure with a top, sides, and a bottom for your cat to spend time in.
- ./ Letting a cat outdoors greatly shortens their life span. Generally an outdoor/indoor cat lives only 4 to 5 years compared to an indoor only cat that can live to be 18 to 20 years.
- ./ You can modify the cat's behavior. If they have previously been allowed out, with time and patience your cat can become an indoor only cat by providing play time, a window for watching, scratching posts and lots of attention.
- ./ You can train a cat to wear a harness and leash so they can go outside with you.
- ./ Spaying and/or neutering will greatly decrease a cat's desire to go outside. They will no longer have a drive to find a mate after the hormone levels decrease.
- ./ A cat that is not allowed outdoors is less likely to mark.