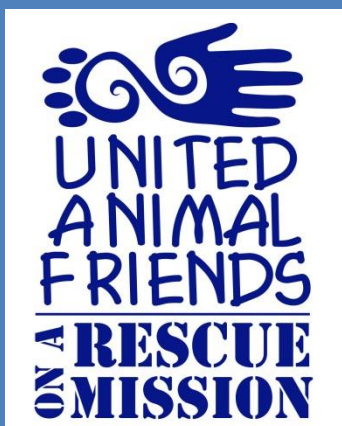


20 Reasons to Keep Your Cat Indoors

This list was developed over a lifetime of experiences with many, many cats. Every item on this list happens every day.

The best policy is to keep your cat inside!



www.UnitedAnimalFriends.org

1. Cars

Thousands of cats get hit by cars every year. If they are lucky, they die instantly.

2. Car Engines

Cats seek warmth. In the winter they tend to climb up inside engine compartments where they can be severely injured or killed when the engine is started.

3. Anti-freeze

Cats like the sweet taste of anti-freeze and will lick it up if able. Anti-freeze is extremely toxic and a cat will die a painful death within hours of ingesting it. It can take less than a teaspoon to kill a full-size cat or dog.

4. Poisoning

There are people who don't like cats and will set out poison on their property. Others may put out poison to get rid of other wildlife that wanders onto their property and your cat may accidentally ingest it.

5. Fighting

Your cat could be killed by dogs, coyotes, raccoons, or other wildlife. Some people train their dogs to attack and kill cats.

6. Fighting Part II

Believe it or not, cats can kill each other during their fights.

7. FeLV

Feline Leukemia destroys a cat's immune system. It is transmitted through body fluids. Even a sneeze can pass the virus from one cat to another. The vaccine for FeLV is only 70% to 80% effective. Cats infected usually die within two years.

8. FIV

Feline Immunosuppressive Virus also destroys a cat's immune system. It is transmitted through body fluids and cuts a cat's lifespan in half. There is no vaccine for FIV.

9. FIP

Feline Infectious Peritonitis is always fatal. Tests and vaccines for FIP are not reliable.

10. Animal Abuse

Cats are often shot with BB guns, burned with lighters or firecrackers, or tortured by people causing loss of limbs, eyes, etc.

11. Starving to Death

People think that because they have lived in the same house for a number of years that their cat is too smart to wander off and get lost. NOT TRUE! People also tend to think that because their cat has never left the front yard that it will never go any farther. NOT TRUE!

12. Getting Trapped

Your cat could get lost in somebody else's garage or utility shed. He could suffer brain damage if trapped in extreme heat or could suffer frostbite if trapped in extreme cold.

13. Research Labs

Your cat could be stolen and sold to a research lab.

14. Parasitic Infections

Your cat could eat something (rat, mouse, bird) and die of a parasitic infection.

15. Good Samaritan

Your cat could be taken in by someone thinking it is a stray. They might keep your cat or take it to the local shelter where it may be euthanized.

16. Unintentional Poisoning

Your cat could be accidentally poisoned by pesticides, lawn products, etc.

17. Fleas, Ticks, Ringworm

Your cat could transmit these to other pets and people in the household.

18. Drowning

Your cat could accidentally fall into a swimming pool and drown.

19. Steel-Jaw Traps

People who live in rural areas think it's great to let cats out to roam. But many times domestic dogs and cats get caught in steel-jaw traps intended for other animals.

20. Spraying

When cats go outside they smell other cats' territorial markings. This may prompt your cat to start spraying inside the house to mark his territory.