



Outdoor vs indoor cats



'Meow... Meow... Meow'

A typical squeal for attention is heard from the back door as you cook your favourite dish for dinner.

'Kitty you are not going out' you reply with vigour as you ferociously stir the pot of rice. 'Come here and I will give you some prawns'. Kitty hears the fridge door open. She scampers in and head-butts the side of your legs as you peel off the shells. 'Ooh kitty. Yummy prawns for your tummy'. You put the prawns on the floor in front of her paws. She sits waiting, watching, and waiting some more. 'Come on kitty they are your favourite'.

'Meow'

Kitty snubs the prawns and heads to the back door. 'Kitty you are driving me insane. I know you want to go out but there are big monsters out there that will love a little fluffy scaredy cat to eat for breakfast'

'Meow'

Kitty is sad.

You have bought a new kitten or have a seasoned cat. How do you decide if it will be an outdoor cat or indoor?

The pros and cons

Cats are born to roam and be free. Their predecessors in the wild will sure vouch for that. If you feel the guilt of leaving kitty crying at the back door and not allowing them to go outside you should consider these options below. They may help you decide what is right for your cat.

Reasons for keeping your cat indoors

- Keeps them away from traffic
- Keeps them away from poisons and baits
- Reduces the chances of contracting Feline Immunodeficiency Virus and Feline Leukaemia from other cats
- No fleas and ticks
- Not preyed upon by dogs and not exposed to snakes or possums
- Can become lost and not return
- Neighbours may be against your cat being on their property (neighbourly spats!)
- Reduces skin cancer
- Reduces the chances of the cat preying on native animals between dusk and dawn

There are fewer cons than pros for keeping your cat indoors. The belief that cats will become overweight can be eradicated by regular play time. There will be purists that

believe cats deserve their freedom and love the outdoors, but the benefits of keeping them indoors supersede this idea.

Ways to compromise some outdoor fun with your indoor kitty

Trial them on a lead or a harness to give you both some fresh air outside. Cat enclosures are a great way of exposing your cat to the outdoor world. They provide a safe environment to give them the freedom to play, climb, and rest while you can continue to cook dinner without it catching on fire in the evenings.

If you are considering getting an enclosure for your cat, wish to vaccinate your cat so they can be outdoors, or even some great ideas to allow you to give your cat some freedom outside then contact your vet Dr. Rebecca at Vetcall for some further handy hints.