

Cat Containment

It's okay for cats to be kept inside the house or confined in the backyard.

As long as their basic needs are being met, cats can live just as happy in confinement as when they are allowed to roam free.

Research shows a cat that is allowed to roam free may have a shorter life span than that of a cat that is confined on its property.

Cats that are allowed to roam free can have a large impact on our native wildlife. Cats are opportunistic hunters, stalking and preying on many species of native wildlife and other small animals.



Annie

DISADVANTAGES for FREE ROAMING CATS

✘ Free roaming cats are more likely to be **attacked by dogs**

✘ Free roaming cats are more likely to be **injured** by other cats fighting for territory

✘ Free roaming cats are more likely to be **exposed to parasites, disease and poisons**

✘ **Neighbours may take legal action** against the cat owner as a response to a cat's negative behaviour

✘ Free roaming cats are more likely to have a **negative impact on our neighbours** e.g. digging gardens, scratching vehicles, noisy cat fights at night, contributing to nuisance dog barking

✘ Free roaming cats are more likely to contract **disease** from other animals

✘ Free roaming cats are more likely to be **injured by vehicles**

✘ Free roaming cats may become a victim of **animal cruelty**

Cheezel



“How do I confine my cat?” - See over the page

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How to confine your cat

KEEP YOUR CAT IN THE HOUSE FULL-TIME

- 🐾 If your cat has never been contained inside the house, bring him/her inside at short intervals during a quiet period when not too many household members are around. Provide some treats or food as a reward. Gradually increase the amount of time that the cat stays inside until they become comfortable with the new surroundings.
- 🐾 **Provide some bedding near a window.** Cats spend the majority of their time sleeping and they especially enjoy the sunlight.
- 🐾 **Provide a litter tray in an area away from the cat's food** and in an area secluded from busy household activity. Cats prefer to toilet in private and away from their food and water bowls.
- 🐾 **Provide some 'hidey holes'.** Cats sometimes like to sleep in secluded areas and a cardboard box may provide feelings of security and a quiet sleeping area.
- 🐾 **Provide some stimulation** while they are awake so they don't get bored. A variety of toys are commercially available or you may use home-made toys such as toilet rolls, ball of aluminium foil & pegs.
- 🐾 **Provide a cat scratch post(s).** Cats sometimes use furniture to sharpen their claws/nails. A scratching post will help avoid damage to furniture. These are commercially available or you can make your own with wood/metal wrapped in pieces of carpet.
- 🐾 **Provide indoor grasses** such as cat grass, cat nip and cat mint. Seeds may be purchased from some pet shops or plant nurseries. Cats like to chew on the grass and it also helps with their digestion.

KEEP YOUR CAT IN AN OUTDOOR ENCLOSURE

- 🐾 If you can not keep your cat(s) inside the house full-time then you should consider an outdoor enclosure. These are commercially available or you may build your own.
- 🐾 The state of Victoria, Department of Primary Industries, has prepared a **'do it yourself' booklet** to help people build their own cat enclosure. Visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/cats/cat-confinement-enclosures-and-fencing> for more information.

NOTE: You should seek advice from your local Council with regards to planning permission requirements before building any enclosure or making adjustments to your fencing.

- 🐾 The following organisations also specialise in building cat enclosures:
www.catmax.com.au
www.catnip.com.au

You may also seek advice from your veterinarian and/or search the internet for other organisations.



INSTALL CAT-PROOF FENCING

- 🐾 Confining your cat on your premises can be as easy as installing cat-proof materials to your existing fence. This will keep your cat(s) inside your premises and may also assist with keeping other cats out of your property.
- 🐾 The state of Victoria, Department of Primary Industries, has prepared a **'do it yourself' booklet** to help people build their own cat-proof fencing. Visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/cats/cat-confinement-enclosures-and-fencing> for more information.

NOTE: You should seek advice from your local Council with regards to planning permission requirements before building any enclosure or making adjustments to your fencing.

- 🐾 The following organisation specialises in cat-proof materials for existing fences: www.oscillot.com.au
You may also seek advice from your veterinarian and/or search the internet for other organisations.

KEEP YOUR CAT IN THE HOUSE BETWEEN DUSK AND DAWN

- 🐾 If you can't provide full confinement of your cat(s), then keeping him/her inside between dusk and dawn is the next best way to protect your cat and the environment. Many of our native wildlife are nocturnal and cats allowed to roam at night may hunt to prey on these species.
- 🐾 **Encourage your cat to return to your house at dusk by regularly providing their food at this time.** They will then become accustomed to returning home at dusk especially when they become hungry. Release your cat in the morning daylight hours.

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