

Have you ever found yourself wondering where your cat was? Maybe he missed supper or did not come home that evening. You then had to start the process of locating your cat by posting flyers on street corners, placing lost pet ads in the local newspaper, going to the humane society every day for any information regarding your lost pet. Driving up and down nearby streets calling out your cat's name and hoping to catch a glimpse of your beloved companion.

The average life span of an outdoor cat is 3-5 years. Many reach an untimely death in a situation that could have been prevented. When outdoors, cats are faced with many dangers such as traffic, unfriendly neighbors, pet theft, poison, abuse, mutilation, starvation, harsh weather, parasites etc. They are at risk for contracting leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus from other cats due to fights. Many cats left unsupervised may also fall victim to research laboratories or used as bait to train fighting dogs.

With a little added effort you can make your cat safe indoors and happy.

Keep a collar and Identification Tag on your cat at all times. Include pet's name, current address and phone number. The most responsible cat owner can experience unexpected circumstances that could put the cat at risk of straying from the house.

Cats love soft cozy places to sleep. Provide several kitty beds throughout the house, especially by a window. Although your feline friend would rather be on your lap dreaming of chasing mice, the beds will act as a great alternative.

Cats love to climb and scratch, as this is part of being a cat. Provide a scratching post near his favorite place or places to sleep because that's when they will use it the most. Provide a climbing tree, which will alleviate boredom and add additional exercise for your cat. The posts are also used for marking and conditioning their forepaws. If you keep your cat's nails trimmed they will not need to scratch as often.

Taking time each day to play with your cat will benefit both you and your companion friend as it is also a time for bonding.