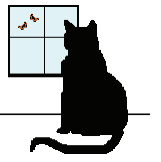




10 Good Reasons to Keep Your Cat Indoors



- 1. Your cat will live longer.** The average indoor cat lives to age 15.
The average age Oregon outdoor cat lives less than 2 years.
- 2. Your cat will be healthier.** If your cat lives inside and is not exposed to outside animals, your furry kid won't have to worry about diseases she might get from a roaming cat. Feline AIDS and feline leukemia are only two of the diseases that cats can pass to each other.
- 3. Your cat will avoid being hit by a car.** No more worries about a car hitting your cat while she is crossing the street to come home or is being chased by other animals. And you won't have to check under the hood or behind the tires of your car before you start it.
- 4. Your cat will avoid severe injuries caused by other animals.** Opossums and raccoons can kill or seriously maim a cat. Coyotes and Cougars prey on small animals and cats are easy targets. These animals are found in neighborhoods in many areas of Eugene both in the city and the country. Don't think your cat is safe if she is only outside during the day and inside at night, these animals also hunt during the day and are growing bolder and less afraid of people. This means they could show up in your neighborhood.
- 5. Your cat can avoid being shot or caught in a trap.** An estimated 100,000 cats are caught in traps each year, losing a leg, or suffering a slow and painful death. In addition, you won't have to worry about someone shooting your cat or hurting her in some other way. Yes, there are people who do not like cats and enjoy torturing animals.
- 6. Your cat will be much more affectionate and not "Mark".** Your cat will be much more focused on you rather than protecting their outdoor territory.
- 7. Your cat can watch birds and rodents instead of eating them.** Outdoor cats often sit under bird feeders waiting for the chance to pounce. They also often hunt mice and moles. If your cat eats a diseased bird or rodent, she can become very sick. If mice have been poisoned and your cats eat them, your cat has been poisoned too. Cats can also get fleas from mice, and fleas cause tapeworms and ear mites.
- 8. Your cat will have fewer parasites.** Outdoor cats often have parasites such as fleas, ticks, ear mites, worms and giardia. These parasites can cause pain and misery for your cat, and sometimes you. Fleas and ticks not only bite your pet, but can also bite you. Ear mite infestations, if left untreated, can cause deafness. Giardia is a bacteria from dirty water that can be passed to you from your cat's feces. It causes severe diarrhea and discomfort.
- 9. Your cat won't get into lawn and garden poisons.** Cats are curious and outdoor cats can easily get into lawn and garden chemicals, rat poisons, bug sprays, slug bait, auto antifreeze, oil, gasoline and other products stored in garages and outdoor sheds. They can also ingest chemicals that have recently been applied to lawns and plants.
- 10. You are saving a life.** If someone finds your cat and turns her into the animal shelter, you may not realize she is missing until it is too late. There often is not enough room for all the cats that end up in shelters and if there is no room, the shelters will kill cats to make room. If your cat never ends up at the shelter, then no other animal will ever have to die to make room for her.