

# Keeping your cats & your native wildlife safe!



Many people who care about cats recognise that it's not ideal to allow cats to roam outside. Outdoor cats live shorter lives characterised by hardship, disease, and injury. Cats suffer when they are hit by cars, are injured or killed by dogs or other cats, or contract diseases such as feline AIDS or tick infestation.



This is why many cat owners choose to keep their cats safe indoors and why animal welfare groups, such as the RSPCA, advocate this.



Cats are perfectly happy indoors. There are various ways to keep cats stimulated and entertained without letting them roam outside.

## These include:

- Playing with your cat regularly.
- Providing plenty of toys and stimulation.
- Giving your cat a seat in front of a window - this is like cat TV and they love it.
- Adopting another cat as a playmate, cats like company.
- Construct an enclosure that allows your cat to experience the outdoors.
- Play with your cat outdoors, bringing them inside when you have both had enough.
- Take your cat for walks on a leash, some cats really enjoy it.



# Taking a toll on native animals



Outdoor cats, both feral and pets, take a huge toll on wildlife with an estimated kill of 377 million birds, 1144 million mammals and 649 million reptiles every year. The characteristics that make them charming pets also makes them excellent hunters. Even well-fed cats are a danger to native animals as their hunting behaviour is not dampened when they are full.



Because cats are not native to Australia our wildlife is not equipped to deal with their predatory nature. This has caused an unnatural situation that is taking a tremendous toll on Australia's native wildlife.



Cat owners are animal lovers so it is our responsibility to address this issue in a way that is humane for both cats and the wildlife they hunt.

## I like animals - What can I do?



Keep your cats indoors with outdoor time in an enclosure on a leash, or with supervised play. This avoids the well-documented problems of their predation, as well as keeping cats safe from fighting, collisions with cars, and diseases that afflict all outdoor cats and shortens their lives.



*Report stray cats to your local council*



*Spread the word and chat to other cat owners about keeping their cats and wildlife safe.*





*Use appropriate containment such as electronic collars and fencing systems.*



*Spay or neuter your cat.*

# The links below provide some more information about keeping cats safe:

 [https://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/care-for-animals/cat-care/keeping-wildlife-safe-and-your-cat-happy/?fbclid=IwAR2MM1yAqSkFfdBwAkwGpnuhnYAF\\_LcxPf3i07P4\\_5BqUpiBbosumGsIM3U](https://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/care-for-animals/cat-care/keeping-wildlife-safe-and-your-cat-happy/?fbclid=IwAR2MM1yAqSkFfdBwAkwGpnuhnYAF_LcxPf3i07P4_5BqUpiBbosumGsIM3U)

 [http://www.catprotection.org.au/images/pdf/FACTSHEETS/Factsheet\\_Happy\\_healthy\\_indoor\\_cats.pdf](http://www.catprotection.org.au/images/pdf/FACTSHEETS/Factsheet_Happy_healthy_indoor_cats.pdf)

 <https://catprotection.org.au/responsible-cat-ownership/>



Photo Gordana Pozveik

## Here's some information on cat containment systems.

Glamour puss Minkie is an indoor cat who spends some time outdoors safe and secure in her cosy cat enclosure from Betta Pet Systems:

 <http://www.bettapetsystems.com.au/>

## Other cat netting and enclosures

 <https://catnets.com.au/>

 <https://www.happycatenclosures.com.au/>

## Pet-safe cat electronic collar

Handsome Shaka Zulu is comfortably wearing a Pet-safe cat electronic collar. This allows him to roam the garden with his best buddy Zinzi. They cannot go within 1.5 metres of the fence before their collar beeps to alert them not to

go any further or risk a mild electric shock. They learn within 2 buzzes to back off from where the beeping starts. The garden can be a safe haven not only for cats but also for local wildlife, each can exist in their separate zones in the garden. So with a bit of thought and provision cats and wildlife can comfortably co-exist in people's backyards.

 <https://www.amazon.com/PetSafe-Premium-Ground-Receiver-Collar/dp/B0030DH1XS?th=1>

 <https://www.dogmaster.com.au/pet-fences/cat/>

## Other useful systems are:

### Cat Electric Fence

 <https://www.sureguard.com.au/page/cat-electronic-fence>

Oscillot® consists of a series of spinning paddles installed on top of the fence line.

 <https://oscillot.com.au/>

### Cat toys

Cat toys from the RSPCA online superstore; World for Pets.

 <https://www.worldforpets.com.au/categories/Cats/Cat-Toys>

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