

## 10 Risks of Allowing Kitty to Roam Outside

This list was developed over a lifetime of experiences with many, many cats. Each and every item on this list happens every day.

### *The best way to keep your cat safe is to keep Kitty inside!*

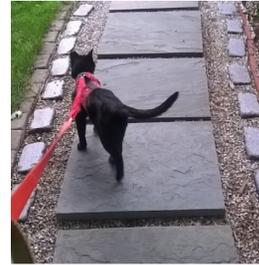
- 1. Neighbors** - When cats go outside they may use your neighbor's yard and garden as their potty area. No one enjoys digging up cat waste in their gardens or flower boxes! If your neighbor has cats, they may see your cat outside and get excited or agitated, which may prompt them to start fighting with other cats in the house or soiling in their house. Be a good neighbor and keep your cat inside!
- 2. Cars** - Thousands of cats get hit by cars every year. If they are lucky, they die instantly.
- 3. Car engines** - Cats seek warmth. In the winter they tend to climb up inside car engines where they can be subsequently ground up.
- 4. Anti-freeze** - Cats like the sweet taste of anti-freeze, and they will lick it if able. Anti-freeze is extremely toxic and your cat will die a painful death within hours of ingesting it. It can take less than a teaspoon to kill a full-size cat or dog!
- 5. Fighting** - Your cat could be seriously injured or killed by dogs, raccoons, coyotes, other wildlife and even other cats.
- 6. TNR** – Your cat could become part of a **TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release)** project and impounded or relocated.
- 7. Diseases: FELV** - Feline Leukemia destroys a cat's immune system. It is transmitted by cats through saliva. The vaccine for FELV is only 70 to 75% effective. Some cats infected die within two years. **FIV** - Feline Immunosuppressive Virus also destroys a cat's immune system. It is transmitted through bites that draw blood and cuts a cat's lifespan in half. There is no vaccination for FIV.
- 8. Parasites** - Your cat could eat something (rat, mouse, bird) and suffer from parasitic infection requiring expensive veterinary care and even die. A cat allowed outside is more likely to contract heartworm from infected mosquitos and perish from poison intended for rodents or other animals. Your cat could transmit fleas, ticks, worms, and ringworm to other pets and people in the household.
- 9. Getting Lost** - People think that because they have lived in the same house for a number of years that their cat is too smart to wander off and get lost. NOT TRUE. People also think that because their cat has never left the front yard that it won't go any farther. Also, NOT TRUE.
- 10. Getting Trapped** - Your cat could get lost in somebody else's garage or utility shed. He could suffer brain damage if trapped in extreme heat or could suffer frostbite if trapped in extreme cold.

## Safe ways to allow your cat outdoors

**Walk your cat on a harness** – Walking your cat is a safe way for you to bond with your cat and for you both to enjoy the outdoors. Here are some resources for cat harnesses including how to train your cat to use a harness.

[www.kittyholster.com](http://www.kittyholster.com)

[www.bestreviews.com/best-cat-harnesses](http://www.bestreviews.com/best-cat-harnesses)



**Provide outside enclosures or “catios” that are accessed from your door or window.**

[www.paws.org/library/cats/home-life/outdoor-enclosures/](http://www.paws.org/library/cats/home-life/outdoor-enclosures/)



**Provide Cat proof fencing or convert your existing fencing—**[www.purrrfectfence.com/](http://www.purrrfectfence.com/)



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