

Here are just a few of the reasons why keeping your cat inside is the best thing you can do for your four-legged friend!

- ◆ *On average, an indoor cat lives 12 years but some cats can live up to 20 years. An outdoor cat's life expectancy is less than 5 years.*
- ◆ *Outdoor cats are more prone to becoming lost. Less than 5% of cats taken to animal shelters are reclaimed by owners.*
- ◆ *Busy highways, roads, suburban streets and country lanes all present a life-threatening danger for cats.*
- ◆ *Danger of contracting an infectious disease rises for the outdoor cat. Many feline diseases including Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Leukemia (FeLV) are transmitted from one infected cat to another.*
- ◆ *Indoor cats are not exposed to the host of poisons that many outdoor cats encounter.*
- ◆ *Parasites are another health issue for outdoor cats. Fleas are prevalent through the world and can be carriers for disease.*
- ◆ *Outdoor cats face other dangers as well. Dogs and wild animals such as opossums & snakes often prey on cats that wander into the wrong territory.*

Did you know..

That it is against Warren's Animal Ordinances to allow your cat to go outside of your property? Keeping cats inside makes sense for your pet and will keep them safe!

Cat owners uncertain about keeping a pet indoors can give their cat the best of both worlds by offering outdoor experiences in controlled situations. Contrary to what most cat owners may think, it is possible to train a cat to a leash and harness. Offering enclosed "outdoor" areas for your cat under your supervision is another great option for those who feel their cats truly need the outdoor experience. As a general rule, an indoor cat is a safe cat and a happy cat! Do your fuzzy friend a favor and keep them indoors! They will thank you for a lifetime!

If you have any questions or would like more information on any of the content of this brochure, you can contact:

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Warren
Neighborhood Cats
Education Program



What you need to know about living with cats in your neighborhood.

Information provided by the



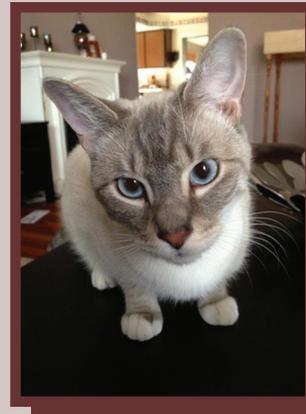
So, you're seeing Cats in your yard!

Most of these are probably members of the domestic cat species that we call "feral" because they are not socialized to humans and therefore cannot be adopted. They make their home where they can find shelter and food, often close to humans. These cats do not belong in animal pounds or shelters, as they are not considered "adoptable" because they fear humans and would therefore not make good house pets. Feral cats make the outdoors their homes, and are perfectly comfortable doing so. However, cats that are not spayed or neutered can produce offspring several times per year, and the population can be quickly multiplied without the help of caring people who help the feral cat community by helping to reduce the overpopulation problem. The most popular method to help reduce overpopulation is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). Using this method, cats are caught; neutered or spayed and vaccinated by a vet and returned back to their territory.



Let's discover the truth about feral Cats and the "Vacuum effect"!

Feral cats have been living outside close to humans for over 10,000 years. They can lead healthy, natural lives on their own, content in their outdoor homes. Catching and killing feral cats may temporarily reduce their numbers in a given area, but two things happen: intact survivors continue to breed, and other cats move into the now available territory. This is a phenomenon known as the vacuum effect, and it is documented worldwide.



Catch-and-kill does not work because of the vacuum effect, but Trap-Neuter-Return does work. With this program in place, there are no more kittens; the population stabilizes, and the returned neutered cats lives are improved. Behaviors and stresses associated with pregnancy and mating, such as yowling or fighting, stop. Trap-Neuter-Return makes good sense and is a responsible, humane method of care for feral cats. In some cases, kittens and socialized cats (who are friendly to humans) are able to be placed into loving homes. Healthy, adult feral cats are returned to their neighborhood site, where they are often provided continuing care by volunteers.

We understand that not everyone enjoys having Cats in their yards.

Here are five easy steps for deterring feral cats or helping to minimize their impact in your community:

- 1) Talk to your neighbors and determine if the cat is a pet, stray or feral, and if he has been neutered. If he has not been neutered, get it done!
- 2) Apply nontoxic substances around your yards, such as citrus peels, coffee grounds, citronella or eucalyptus.
- 3) Put a tight lid on your trash can.
- 4) Block gaps in building foundations with chicken wire or lattice – be sure to check for kittens especially during spring, prime kitten season.
- 5) Use a car cover. Cats like to perch on high ground, and this will discourage them from scratching your car.

These quick steps can help you co-exist with your neighborhood cats

