

## City Ordinances:

City ordinances within the City of Warren require that any pets be kept on the owner's property. Cats let outdoors have no barrier to stop them from roaming into the neighbor's yard or down to the next neighborhood. Keeping cats indoors ensures that owned pets are not found as strays and are safely at home at all times!



## Effect on local wildlife:

Cats let outside can contribute to the death of local birds and other wildlife. To keep neighborhood animals safe, keep kitty indoors!

Not only is keeping your pet inside the right thing to do, it is the safe thing to do!

# Keeping Your Cat Safe!

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

City of Warren  
Animal Welfare Commission  
One City Square  
Warren, Michigan 48093

[www.cityofwarren.org/AWC](http://www.cityofwarren.org/AWC)  
[www.facebook.com/WarrenAWC](https://www.facebook.com/WarrenAWC)  
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## Staying Indoors is the key!

It's an all too common phrase, "My cat just LOVES the outdoors!" The words strike fear into the heart of true cat lovers, who know the many dangers that lurk outside for these most innocent of family pets, often turned loose outside to face whatever peril may be right around the next corner. The truth is: being outside is dangerous for cats!

Household cats have no need to go outside, despite the common thread that seems to follow these statements, that the family pet will somehow be unhappy if kept inside. The truth is being inside can not only provide everything your cat needs to be happy, but it can also keep them safe from danger and provide them with a much longer and happier life.

The average expected life-span of a cat decreases significantly if let outdoors unsupervised, and some sources estimate that as many as 10 years can be shaved off your cat's expected lifespan if they are let outside.

The list of dangers for "Indoor/Outdoor" cats is long, and includes things like:

- Being hit and killed or injured by a car
- Contracting life-threatening diseases (Feline Leukemia or FIV) from other infected cats
- Parasites - including roundworms, tapeworms, etc. and fleas
- Getting lost or stolen
- Ending up in a shelter
- Being injured or killed by neighborhood dogs or other wildlife
- Being caught in a car engine (trying to stay warm)
- Being poisoned or tortured as victims of animal cruelty
- Becoming pregnant and contributing to pet overpopulation



## Keeping your Cat Happy Indoors:

Many cats that people assume are unhappy being kept indoors can be just as happy indoors as they would be outdoors, but much, much safer. To keep your cat happy indoors:

- Provide your cat with many areas to jump and explore, such as tall cat "trees" or kitty condos.
- Provide scratching surfaces, as well as plenty of toys for your cat to play with.
- Make time to play with your cat on a daily basis
- If your cat likes other animals, consider adopting a second cat for your cat to play with
- Train your cat to walk on a leash (cat harnesses are available at most local pet stores)
- Put in a bird bath outside your window or buy a fish tank to keep kitty entertained (be sure the fish tank is safely secured to keep the fish safe too!)