

**Keeping  
your cat  
healthy  
and happy  
at home**



**TassieCat**

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

# Roaming Cats

## Did you know...



- ▶ Domestic cats don't need to roam.
- ▶ Cats are very adaptable. They don't need to be outside to be content. You can easily provide the stimulation your cat needs indoors.
- ▶ The average outdoor domestic cat roams an area of 2 hectares. One domestic cat tracked over 24 hours travelled almost 4 km, visited 16 different backyards, crossed three roads and explored a bushland reserve at night.
- ▶ In a 2019 study, 46% of Tasmanians reported that roaming cats are a nuisance in their neighbourhood.

- ▶ A 2014 study found 84% of feral and stray cats tested in Tasmania were infected with toxoplasmosis, which can be very harmful to humans, native wildlife and livestock.

- ▶ A study released in 2020 found that a single roaming domestic cat kills around 186 animals per year, this includes 115 native animals. The study also found that a feral cat will kill around 748 animals per year. One study found that free-roaming cats only bring around 15% of their prey home.
- ▶ Cats with bells still kill native wildlife. They learn to stalk prey silently. Animals don't always associate the sound of a bell with danger.

- ▶ Well-fed cats still kill wildlife due to their hunting instinct.
- ▶ Cats have contributed to the extinction and decline of a number of small native Australian mammal species.





# Keeping your cat healthy and happy at home



Cats can live happily indoors as long as they have food and water, a litter tray and lots of enrichment such as climbing and scratching poles, toys and of course your love and attention.

If your cat has enjoyed being outside for many years you can slowly increase their time indoors over an extended period.



## Indoor cats are safe from:



**CARS.** Cats can be injured or killed, or cause accidents on roads.



**CAT FIGHTS.** Fights can lead to injuries and infections and may transmit diseases such as feline immunodeficiency virus.



**DOGS.** Cats can be killed or seriously injured in dog attacks.



**WILDLIFE.** Prevent your cat from hunting wildlife and reduce the risk of your cat contracting ticks and worms.



**GETTING LOST.** Some cats may lose their way home when they are roaming outside.

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# Ways to entertain your indoor cat



**1) High resting places.** Cats love to perch up high as it allows them to survey their surroundings and makes them feel secure.

**2) Enclosed spaces.** Cats love to hide. It allows them to get away from people and other animals.

**3) Bedding.** Cats like to spend a lot of time sleeping and resting in quiet areas where they feel safe and secure.

## **4) Toys and activities**

- ▶ Window perch
- ▶ Play tunnel
- ▶ Empty cardboard boxes
- ▶ Leave a few ping pong balls around – including one in the bathtub.

**WARNING:** Avoid an expensive vet bill and DO NOT leave string, ribbon or plastic bags out for your cat to play with while unsupervised.



# How to give your cat time outdoors



**Some cats enjoy or can be trained to walk with a harness and lead.**

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## **Install cat proof fencing around your yard.**

Designed to prevent your cat scaling the fence and an ideal option for people with small yards.

There are many ready-to-install cat fencing options available or try building your own.

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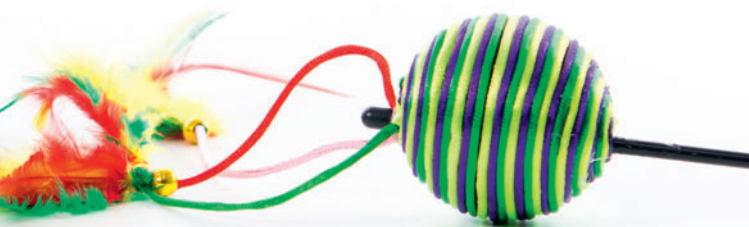
## **Install an outdoor enclosure.**

Enclosures come in many shapes and sizes. From simple netting around your patio, to a free standing enclosure in your garden.

There are many ready-to-install enclosures and accessories or why not build one yourself?

“ The fact is, the more time a pet cat spends safe at home, the less risk of injury or death from road accidents, fighting, and disease. A pet cat kept safe at home can live up to four times longer than a cat left to roam.

**- Australian Veterinary Association**



# Desexing facts



Stops unwanted litters.



Reduces unwanted behaviour such as spraying, marking, fighting, yowling and roaming.



Increases your cat's life expectancy.



Un-desexed females spray and seek males when 'in season'.



Un-desexed female cats 'in season' often yowl, roll on the floor and are agitated until let outside.



Un-desexed male cats fight over females which may lead to injury, infection and disease.

# Microchipping

A microchip is a small, permanent electronic ID tag inserted by needle under the skin between your cat's shoulder blades. The procedure is quick, safe, easy and side effects are very uncommon.

Microchipping your cat will make it easier to quickly reunite you with your pet in the event your cat becomes lost.

**From 1 March 2022, all cats over the age of four months must be microchipped and desexed.**

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