



Keep Cats **Home.** **Protect What's Wild.**



Keeping your cat at home helps them live a longer, healthier life while protecting local wildlife.

While many cats enjoy being outside, free-roaming cats face risks such as traffic, disease, parasites, poisoning and becoming lost. Even well-fed cats retain natural hunting instincts and can impact local birds and small mammals.

Almost half of Edmonton cat guardians report allowing their cats outdoors.¹

The good news is that your cat doesn't have to miss out on the outdoors to stay safe. With the right enrichment and supervised outdoor experiences, **your cat can live a happy, healthy and enriched life at home.**

Why Keep Cats at Home?

For Cats

Keeping your cat at home reduces the risk of:

- Traffic injuries and accidents
- Disease and parasites
- Encounters with predators and other animals
- Poisoning and environmental hazards
- Being trapped, relocated or intentionally harmed by people
- Becoming lost or separated from your family

For Wildlife

Keeping your cat at home helps:

- Protect local birds and small mammals
- Reduce impacts on wildlife populations
- Support healthier local ecosystems

Outdoor cats are estimated to kill up to 197 million birds each year in Canada.²

Helping Cats Thrive at Home

Your cat can live a full, active and rewarding life at home when their physical and behavioural needs are met.

Simple ways to enrich your cat's environment include:

- Providing scratching posts and climbing opportunities
- Offering elevated spaces such as cat trees, shelves or window perches
- Rotating toys and enrichment items
- Using food puzzles or treat-dispensing toys
- Engaging in regular interactive play sessions
- Providing quiet spaces to rest and retreat
- Playing cat-friendly videos or calming music
- Teaching new skills — like high fives! — through positive reinforcement



Safe Ways to Explore Outdoors

Your cat can still enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the outdoors without roaming freely.

Consider **supervised** outdoor experiences such as:

- Catos and enclosed outdoor spaces
- Harness and leash training

One Change Can Make a Big Difference

Keeping your cat at home is one of the most effective actions you can take to help protect both cats and wildlife. With enrichment, play and safe outdoor alternatives, your cat can enjoy a happy, healthy life while helping protect what's wild.

For information on co-existing with wildlife: [WILDNorth.ca](https://wildnorth.ca)

For information on cat care: [EdmontonHumaneSociety.com](https://edmontonhumane.com)

References:

¹ Statistics Canada. 2023. Table 38-10-0015-01 Purchases to feed, shelter or watch birds. <https://doi.org/10.25318/3810001501-eng>

² Chu, J. J., D. R. Norris, J. Bourque, C. Roy, O. Wilson, and E. A. Gow. 2025. An updated estimate of the number of birds killed by outdoor cats in Canada. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 20(2):12. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ACE-02926-200212>