

VETMED RESOURCE HOT TOPIC:

Indoor versus outdoor cats

The decision to allow cats access to the outdoors is influenced by animal and owner demographics, as well as owner personal preference. Safety, exposure to parasites/diseases, and predation on wildlife are some of the concerns. As urbanisation increases, reducing owner access to outdoor spaces, an increasing number of cats are being kept strictly indoors. For cats without outdoor access, an adequately enriched indoor environment is essential for mental and physical stimulation of the animal.

VetMed Resource contains a wealth of information on the advantages and disadvantages of an indoor-only versus an indoor-outdoor lifestyle for cats, including impacts on animal behaviour and welfare, risk of injury and disease, and concerns over native wildlife.

VetMed Resource comprehensively covers hot topics that matter

VetMed Resource sources the world literature to provide the complete picture on indoor and outdoor cats, including information on:

- **Demographics:** decisions about cat lifestyle are influenced by demographics.
Indoors or outdoors? An international exploration of owner demographics and decision making associated with lifestyle of pet cats. Animals, 2021
Perspectives of Canadian and American cat owners on provision of uncontrolled outdoor access for owned domestic cats. Frontiers in Veterinary Science, 2021
- **Parasites and infectious diseases:** restricting outdoor access can reduce the risk of parasitic infection and infectious diseases.
Who let the cats out? A global meta-analysis on risk of parasitic infection in indoor versus outdoor domestic cats (Felis catus). Biology Letters, 2019
A prospective epidemiological, clinical, and clinicopathologic study of feline leukemia virus and feline immunodeficiency virus infection in 435 cats from Greece. Comparative Immunology, Microbiology & Infectious Diseases, 2021
- **Welfare and behaviour:** outdoor access promotes physical activity and expression of natural behaviours, but it also exposes cats to risks, such as injury and poisoning.
A systematic review of social and environmental factors and their implications for indoor cat welfare. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, 2019
The environmental needs of many Australian pet cats are not being met. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery, 2020
- **Predation:** cats can negatively affect their environments due to predation on wildlife.
Hunting behaviour in domestic cats: an exploratory study of risk and responsibility among cat owners. People and Nature, 2019
Domestic cats (Felis catus) and European nature conservation law – applying the EU birds and habitats directives to a significant but neglected threat to wildlife. Journal of Environmental Law, 2019

Introducing CABI's VetMed Resource

Support your practice and professional development with the best evidence-based veterinary information available.

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VetMed Resource is an essential online tool for veterinarians, researchers, policy makers, students and teachers, providing an evidence base to support decision making, continuing education and professional development.

“To maximize journal coverage and avoid missing potentially relevant evidence, CAB Abstracts should be included in any veterinary literature search.”

– Grindlay D.J.C; Brennan, M.L.; Dean, R.S., 2012 Searching the Veterinary Literature: A Comparison of the Coverage of Veterinary Journals by Nine Bibliographic Databases. Journal of Veterinary Medical Education, 39(4), DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3138/jvme.1111.109R>



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