



## **TIPS FOR TURNING OUTDOOR CATS INTO INDOOR CATS**

The following are a number of things which make it easier for cats to become established as indoor cats. Easier for them and for you!

**Have your cat spayed or neutered!!!** As well as helping to address a cat overpopulation problem that results in thousands of unclaimed cats every year in our county, spaying and neutering cause cats to be more sociable, and less inclined to roam.

**Have toys around for them to entertain themselves.** Catnip mice are a favorite. You can grow catnip outside and rub it on their toys every once in a while. This very successfully renews the cats' interest in playing with their toys.

**Make places available for them to sit by the window.** Cats love to bask in the morning sun, as well as watch wildlife and human activities outside.

**Isolate the cat box (es) so that periodic odors are not disruptive to the human inhabitants of the household.** Many people choose the bathroom. You can also choose the garage and install a cat door in between the house and garage. This will minimize odors even further.

**Find a way to allow each cat to have a favorite (and secure!) place to which it can retreat.** Whether it is in a cat tree cubby, a dining room chair tucked under the table, an unoccupied room where they can be alone.

**Same number of cat boxes as cats.** It is a good formula for not having to attend the boxes constantly to keep them under control

**Have carpeted posts, or some other place for them to scratch.** There are cheap (\$5) cardboard scratchers that are available that you can lie on the floor, or attach to a door knob (for vertical scratching). There are also inexpensive carpeted scratching posts. You can always recover them as they wear out.

**Make the bedrooms of allergy sufferers off limits to cats.** This will go a long way toward reducing allergy irritations, especially if they tend to be cumulative. Bare, uncarpeted floors with washable throw-rugs are also easier to keep clean.

Some cats pose a serious challenge to any attempts to keep them indoors. It may just not be possible in some cases without really going crazy. In cases like these one might consider a caged run for the cat, connected to the house with a cat door.

**Don't give up too easily, though. It seems to be a matter of negotiating a workable agreement with your cat.**