



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.