



Blue Springs

Animal Hospital & Pet Resort

"It's All About Caring"



KEEPING YOUR CAT INSIDE VS OUTSIDE

The decision to keep a cat strictly indoors or outdoors or to allow both is an important one. Cats do like to go outside to play, hunt, and lay in the sunshine. However, if you decide to allow your cat to go out, these are some things to consider:

- The life expectancy of an outdoor cat is less than 4 years of age.
- The life expectancy of an indoor/outdoor cat is about 8 years of age.
- The indoor cat can expect to reach an average age of about 16 years.

The short life expectancy of outdoor cats is due to the many, often-fatal dangers that they encounter. Many outdoor cats are run over by cars, attacked by other animals, exposed to contagious diseases such as leukemia and feline aids, ingest spoiled foods or other poisonous substances. Outdoor cats are exposed to fleas, ticks, and other parasites. Outdoor cats are also adept hunters and often kill birds, rabbits, and rodents and drag them home. Exposure to rabies is four times greater in an outdoor cat than in a dog.

The dangers and health risks of allowing a cat to roam outside far outweigh the mild displeasure a cat may exhibit from being kept indoors. Most kittens, if kept indoors from a young age, will never expect or try very hard to escape from the house. Older cats that are used to going outside may cry and try hard to dart out the doors initially. **But if they are spayed/neutered and never allowed back outside, most of them will adjust to staying inside.**

If you wish to allow your cat to spend a few minutes outside, but want to avoid the dangers, you can put a lightweight leash and harness on them and take them out with you.

If you have questions or problems with keeping your cat inside, please call us and we would be happy to help you decide what is best for your individual situation.

Blue Springs Animal Hospital & Pet Resort
1201 W. 40 Highway Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816) 229-1544

www.bluespringsanimalhospital.com