

Outside risks to unsupervised cats

Traffic

Some people mistakenly think cats are naturally "street smart." Vehicles are a serious threat to all cats allowed outside – and each day many are killed on roads

Disease

Feline Leukemia, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), and rabies are just three of the deadly illnesses your cat can come into contact with from wild and domestic animals. In addition, outdoor cats are vulnerable to parasites such as fleas.

Abuse

Sadly, there are people in our society who abuse animals, including cats. Letting your cats outside makes them vulnerable to cruelty.

The elements

Domestic cats are not well suited to surviving Ontario's extreme weather conditions. Extreme heat in the summer, and bitterly cold winters both pose health risks to your cat.

Other animals

Confrontations with other animals, including other roaming pets, Community cats, and wildlife, can cause your cat injury, or even result in death.

Becoming lost

Cats may not always be able to find their way home, or they may be mistaken for stray cats and end up at a pound or animal shelter. Far too often a cat simply doesn't return home one day, and the owner never finds out what really happened.

The impact of roaming cats on communities

Allowing your cat to roam not only endangers the life of your cat, but directly impacts other animals and residents within your community.

Pet overpopulation

Roaming cats not spayed or neutered contribute significantly to the ongoing pet overpopulation crisis. Sadly, thousands of cats are euthanized in Ontario each year because there are not enough adoptive homes.

Effects on wildlife

Roaming cats are common culprits in the deaths of wild animals, especially birds and small mammals. The effect of outdoor cats on a local wildlife population can be devastating and cause unnecessary suffering to thousands of wild animals.

Conflicts with neighbors

Cats who wander may defecate in gardens and other undesirable places, kill birds at a neighbour's birdfeeder, or bother indoor cats visible through windows. These and other situations may damage your relationship with neighbors and lead to unnecessary conflicts for both you and your cat.