

Keeping Your Cat Safe

It isn't always easy to keep your cat indoors, especially if he is used to being outside. Of course if you have a kitten, then start out by making him indoor-only. To ensure this is successful you need to put certain things in place, such as a tall cat tree in a strategic location and interactive play (with, say, a fishing pole toy) at least once or twice a day. For further information consult: www.aspca.org (Select 'pet care' from the choices on the left, then select 'animal behavior'; then from the right sidebar select 'cat behavior'. There are several relevant articles including how to make the transition from outdoor to indoor cat.) Cat trees are available from companies such as Cat Man (945-3535) www.catmancatfurniture.com

If you want your cat to have outdoor experience (or have difficulty keeping him inside) you have the following humane options:

- ***Walking Your Cat with a Harness and Leash***

Not for every cat, but those who like it, really enjoy it. With safety being a concern, you MUST be out with your cat rather than tying him to a stake in the yard (since some tethered cats have been snatched and harmed). Consult sites such as

www.hdw-inc.com/leashtraining.htm

www.cats.about.com/cs/behavioralissues/ht/leashtrain.htm.

There is a 'how-to' video at

www.expertvillage.com/videos/cat-walking-harness.htm

- ***Physical Structures or Barriers***

Cat Fences (non-electric only, please)

www.hsus.org (go to 'pet' > 'pet care' > 'cat care' > 'fence me in' (will link to other related articles)

www.catfencein.com (an example of a commercially sold cat fence that works; there is at least one in North Glenora)

Cat enclosures, cages, runs

www.catmancatfurniture.com (945-3535)

www.meowfoundation.com/health/outdoor.html (gives a list of resources)

www.xmission.com/~emailbox/catruncatrun.htm (shows a variety of homemade solutions)

www.cat-world.com.au/cat-worldenclosures.htm

(variety of photos of homemade enclosures/fencing for inspiration)

For further information: *Visit the Edmonton Cat Show (September 22 and 23rd, 2007) at the Shaw Conference Centre for further ideas. Dr. Krawetz (retired cat behaviorist) will be there to answer questions (at the Reiki for Pets table).*

An electronic version of this flyer is available from the North Glenora Community League website at www.ngcl.org