

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONVERTING OUTDOOR CATS TO INDOOR CATS



1. Ignore all crying at the door. As difficult as it may be, this is the first step in training your cat. When your cat leaves the door praise him/her and offer petting and affection. For any scratching at doors or windows, spray the cat with a water gun to discourage this behavior. If you give in to your cats demands to go outdoors sometimes, you will only be confusing him.
2. Your indoor cat will need things to occupy his time during the day/night. Most important, make sure there is a scratching post or other acceptable place to stretch and scratch on. Have toys available and try paper bags or cardboard boxes to encourage play. Make special time each day to play with your cat. Try to create diversions from his/her desire to go outdoors. Keep windows available for your cat to look outside (they love to watch the birds at a backyard feeder!). Cat furniture or cat trees are nice to offer for climbing and exercise.
3. If your cat is a real escape artist and manages to slip out every time you go in and out, it may be necessary to confine your cat to one room only, for several days or a week. Spend time in the room with your cat to offer affection and play time together. Show him how good life is indoors!
4. Some pet owners are able to offer the luxury of an outdoor enclosure for their cats. A secure enclosure is the only safe way for a cat to be outdoors!

It will take time, patience and understanding on your part to adapt your outdoor cat to a new life indoors. With your help, your cat can make the change and enjoy a safer, happier and longer life inside!



San Bernardino County
Animal Care & Control Program
(800) 472-5609