

Roam to home

Making your roaming cat a home cat

Step 1 | Getting started



Set Up Checklist

- At least one vertical space per cat, plus one extra in separate locations
- At least one safe hiding space per cat, plus one extra in separate locations
- At least one scratch post per cat, plus one extra in separate locations
- At least one fresh water bowl per cat, plus one extra in separate locations
- At least one feeding station per cat, plus one extra in separate locations
- At least one litter tray per cat, plus one extra in separate locations
- Enrichment such as toys, cat grass and/or scents, in various locations
- House checked for anything toxic or dangerous
- Time set aside to give my cat attention each day
- At least one window with natural sunlight and a view

Maintenance

- Scoop litter trays daily
- Completely empty, clean and refill litter trays regularly
- Check and refresh water daily
- Watch my cats' behaviour to see if they like the scratch posts, litter trays and litter I've chosen for them
- Play/interact with my cat daily

There's lots of good reasons to keep your cat home—for their safety, to comply with local laws or to conserve wildlife. Ideally, cats should be able to live indoors with access to some outdoor enclosed space. But what if you can't modify the entries to your home and yard to stop your cat roaming into danger?

Well lots of cats can (and do) live happy, healthy lives entirely indoors because their humans have set them up for success. *Roam to home* explains how to bring your cat to live comfortably inside without depriving them of their health or happiness.

It could take as little as four weeks to help your cat adjust. Some might adapt quicker. Others longer. That's okay, just be patient and stick to the plan. So let's get started by setting up your home to be a safe, comfortable place for your cat.

Natural born climbers

Cats are natural climbers and love to perch. Giving your cat stable vertical spaces to explore satisfies their natural instincts and provides a place to rest where they feel safe and secure.

Vertical space could look like

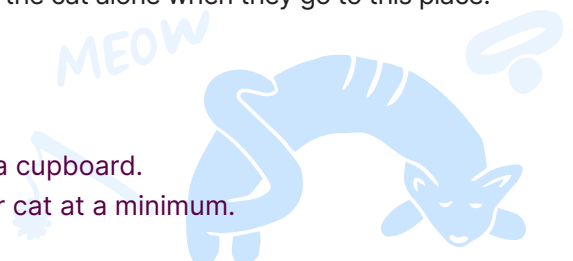
- Cat trees and scratch posts.
- Cat shelves.
- Small beds placed in, or on top of, existing bookcases or cabinets.
- Have at least one vertical space per cat, plus an extra as cats like choice.

Cats need alone time too

Hiding spots give your cat a sense of ownership over their space and allow them to feel safe and relaxed. Hiding spots should be in a quiet location and household members should leave the cat alone when they go to this place.

Hiding spots could look like

- A cardboard box.
- A hooded cat bed or 'igloo'.
- Space under your bed or in a cupboard.
- Aim for one hiding space per cat at a minimum.



Let them scratch

Support your cat's natural instinct to scratch by giving your cat appropriate scratching places. Scratching helps to keep your cat's claws and paws healthy, lets them stretch out their muscles, and very importantly, is how your cat deposits pheromones (their way of communicating by smell) which helps them feel at home in your house.

Scratching places could look like

- A scratch post or cardboard scratcher.
- A piece of carpet or surface covered in sisal rope.
- Place wherever your cat likes to scratch and make sure you have at least one per cat, plus an extra.

Cats have very individual tastes when it comes to scratching so try out a few different options and make sure to place your scratcher in an area your cat already likes to scratch, for example, next to the couch.

Enrich their space

Cats need mental and physical stimulation to stay happy and healthy. Providing your home cat with enrichments is essential for their wellbeing and can reduce any unwanted behaviours.

Enrichments could look like

- Toys rotated regularly to keep your cat interested.
- Interactive play with you.
- A perch next to a window with sunlight and a view.
- Interactive toys or food puzzle toys (don't use for regular feeding).
- Music or TV designed for cats, search 'cat music' or 'Cat TV' on the internet
- Cat safe plants like cat grass or cat mint.
- Training. Yep! Like dogs, cats can be trained with rewards and it stimulates their mind.

Make your home cat-safe

Cats are curious creatures who love to explore, so it's important to make sure your house is safe for them. This includes securing windows, doors and furniture and removing dangerous substances.

Some dangers to cats could look like

- Toxic plants.
- Medications.
- Human foods like onion, chocolate, grapes etc.
- Essential oils and cleaning products.
- Salt lamps.

Fresh water

Cats are prone to urinary tract and kidney issues. To help prevent dehydration and other health issues, place fresh water in multiple places around the house. Bowls that can be easily cleaned are best and some cats prefer free flowing water from a drinking fountain. Keep their water separated and away from litter trays.

Fresh water could look like

- Water bowls are emptied, rinsed and replenished daily and washed at least weekly.
- Drinking fountains that are cleaned weekly and have filters replaced as needed.
- At least one bowl for each cat and a backup.

Let's talk litter boxes

Home cats still have the instinct to toilet like they would outside. The best way to support your cat's toileting instincts is to give them easy access to multiple clean, comfortable litter trays.

A good litter tray set up could look like

- An open litter tray that is at least 1.5 times the length of your cat (you may have to try a few to find one your cat is comfortable using).
- At least one litter tray per cat plus an extra, in separate locations.
- Located in a quiet area of the house.
- Unscented litter that your cat feels comfortable using (you may have to try a few types).
- Kept clean with daily scooping.
- Regularly emptying, washing and drying the tray and replacing with fresh litter.

Attention and affection

Cats need attention and affection just like any other pet. Make sure to spend time playing with your cat and give them plenty of cuddles and love. Don't force this, let your cat choose if and how they want to interact with you. If they don't feel like it, you will know and it's important to leave them be. If your cat doesn't like cuddles, find ways that they like interacting with you like play, training or being brushed.