

CATS AND YOUR COMMUNITY



Cats can make wonderful pets but, when allowed to roam outdoors, can become a source of conflict between neighbors and for communities. Here is some information about potential risks and simple solutions to protect cats and homeowners in your community.

HUMAN HEALTH

Outdoor cats can transmit parasites and diseases, like hookworm, to pets, neighbors, and owners.

- Rabies
- Toxoplasmosis

CAT HEALTH AND WELFARE

Veterinarians agree that outdoor cats face many risks, like vehicle strikes, animal attacks, poison, and disease. They are also nearly three times more likely to get parasites.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Cats can impact a homeowner's ability to enjoy their own and communal property by spraying urine, defecating in people's yards, yowling, scratching, spreading parasites, and more.

WILDLIFE

Keeping and feeding cats outdoors attracts fleas, ticks, ants, rats, raccoons, and coyotes. Cats are also instinctive predators that contribute to significant local bird and other wildlife declines.

✓ SOLUTION

Responsible community policies can prevent conflicts and risks associated with outdoor cats. Most importantly, property owners should have the right to a property free of unwanted cats.

Example Policy:

No dog, cat, or other pet animal shall be allowed beyond the owner's lot except when under a person's direct control, such as a leash. Owners are required to promptly remove any solid pet waste from all common areas, roadways, private streets, and subdivision trails. The Board may adopt further rules, regulations, and policies governing animals on the properties.

WHAT OTHER TEXANS HAVE TO SAY:

"The cats invade our backyards, leaving feces and fleas. They sometimes fight at night. One cat had a litter underneath my house, another one got terribly sick in my yard and later died in the street."

Joy Sewing, Houston Chronicle, July 20, 2022