

## **INDOOR Cats**

While having an outdoor cat is not a terrible thing, the pros of keeping a cat inside outnumber and outweigh the cons of an indoor cat. Most are directly related to the health and safety of the cat. For that reason, the Humane Society of Richland County recommends keeping your cat as primarily an indoor family member!

Here are a few reasons why we think INDOOR is best:

- Traffic-busy roadways, freeways, streets, and or country lanes all present a life threatening danger for cats
- Poisons- pesticides, home garden products, car and motor products, discarded trash and waste, or poisonous plants are all dangerous for cats
- Infectious diseases and illnesses- FIV and or FeLV can be contracted from another cat. Diseases can be contacted from other cats and other animals.
- Injury- cat fights and or fights with other animals can cause injury and abscesses that can be very costly to remedy.
- Life Expectancy- On average an Indoor cat can live from 12-20 years and an outdoor cat is less than 5 years (due to all the risks).
- Lost- Outdoor cats are prone to becoming lost. Less than 5% of cats that are taken to a shelter are reclaimed by their owners.

