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Seahawks Feline Fans Enjoy Seattle's Newest "Hawkitecture"

SEATTLE, Washington (Jan. 26, 2015) -- Even a couple of cats are cheering – or purring – as the Seattle Seahawks prepare to deflate the spirit of their opponents in Super Bowl XLIX. And even though they are Maine Coon cats, the felines have no allegiance to anything (including football players) associated with New England.

Purrcival and Penelope are following this week's pre-game action from the comfort of a custom-designed and decorated Catio Space that clearly reflects the passion of their owner, a longtime Hawks fan who will be in Arizona on Sunday for his first Super Bowl.

The 7'x'6'x7' enclosed outdoor space was designed by Cynthia Chomos, the founder of Catio Spaces, a year-old Seattle company. The cat-loving Chomos is a feng shui consultant and general contractor who applies her expertise to the creation and construction of safe outdoor enclosures for cats. Her latest installation, built by Chomos and a lead carpenter, promises to keep the cats safe, healthy and happy.



The colors of Seattle's NFL team are evident throughout the catio's "Hawkitecture," from floor to ceiling. Chomos decorated the interior with various "Spirit of 12" merchandise, including flags, a Seahawks football and game chair, a football field rug and an NFL figurine of Marshawn Lynch, the cat owner's favorite player. An ample supply of "power pellet" Skittles® and a football cat toy add to the enjoyment.



Chomos, a member of the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, uses pressure treated wood framing, galvanized wire mesh walls, natural cedar shelves for climbing and perching, and a clear, lightweight weatherproof roof for year-round use in her enclosures.

Chomos said her latest catio will be part of a showcase of 10 cat enclosures that will be featured in Seattle's inaugural Catio Tour, scheduled for Saturday, May 16. The event is sponsored by Catio Spaces, PAWS and the Humane Society of the United States.

Organizations like PAWS, the Humane Society and others whose members include cat-lovers and bird-lovers share a desire to offer pet cats an enriching outdoor experience. The catio tour is intended to demonstrate how outdoor cat enclosures provide protection for cats as well as for birds or other wildlife.

Both Purrcival and Penelope were adopted by owners Matt Renouard and his wife Andrea. Purrcival, who Matt calls his "game day lap cat," was adopted from PAWS while Penelope was found on craigslist.



Many of the materials for the Seahawk-themed catio were donated by Ballard area businesses to support the upcoming catio tour. Chomos donated her design/build services and the décor, Limback Lumber in Ballard donated wood and in-kind materials for lead carpenter Jack Poston, Stoneway Hardware in Ballard contributed the wire mesh and Home Depot provided the roofing materials and outdoor carpet.

Chomos said her wood frame catios are designed to complement a home and look like outdoor "rooms" rather than wire cages. Catio Spaces are custom designed for windows, patios, decks and garden areas.

Various sizes and innovative styles are offered, including above-ground window perch catios, the "Window Box Veranda" and "Garden Window Condo," and the ground--level "Garden Sanctuary" featuring space for human and feline interaction, and the more compact "Urban Haven." The outdoor enclosures can be mounted to a home's wood siding or window frame. Each catio can be decorated to suit a feline's fancy.

Chomos said she founded Catio Spaces to address the need for safe and aesthetically pleasing outdoor enclosures to enhance a cat's life. Working with a crew of licensed and bonded carpenters, she said the sizes of her initial ground--level installations in the Greater Seattle area vary from around 64 square feet to 120 square feet.

Chomos describes herself as an "artist at heart" and credits her adopted tabby, Serena, as being the inspiration for her new business. She says the greatest joy is witnessing her 4-legged clients enjoy the stimulation of the outdoors while knowing the cat will always be safe.

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High-res images are available – See gallery and "News" tab at CatioSpaces.com