



CATIO SPACES®

Designing Spaces for Safe, Healthy & Happy Cats

**FOR INFORMATION/High-Res
Photos** (credit: Catio Spaces)
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Catio Spaces supports Animal Safety and Protection Month with virtual catio tour and giveaway of 25 catio plans during October

SEATTLE, Washington (September 21, 2020) – From the coronavirus pandemic to wildfires, hurricanes, and other emergencies, now is an especially important time for pet parents to review safety measures for their household's beloved animals, advises Cynthia Chomos, founder of Catio Spaces. These emergencies and safety reminders coincide with National Animal Safety and Protection month, observed annually in October.

As a supporter of National Animal Safety and Protection Month, Catio Spaces will be giving away 25 of the company's [DIY Catio Plans](#) (Do It Yourself) and offering a free virtual "Catio Tour," a video showcase featuring enclosed, outdoor "cat patios" -- a growing trend for feline enrichment and safety. The catio showcase includes seven videos featuring before and after transformations and cat parents who solved their indoor/outdoor dilemma to protect cats, birds, and wildlife. (See box for sweepstakes details and virtual catio tour showcase with links to web pages)

There are many simple steps pet owners can take to keep their furry family members safe, healthy, and protected, suggested Chomos. Five important steps she recommends for the well-being of cats include:

1. An annual wellness check-up by a veterinarian. According to the [American Association of Feline Practitioners](#) (AAFP), a high percentage (83%) of cats go to a vet during their first year, but half of them never go back until they are sick or injured. Cats are masters at hiding pain, discomfort or an ailment or may not display symptoms of a health issue until it becomes advanced. An exam by a vet as well as lab tests can uncover early stages of an illness or disease. "It's best to prevent any health issues before they arise – and it can be easier and less costly to treat," said Chomos, who noted a routine preventive care exam can include vaccinations as well as discussions on dental care, flea control, weight, nutrition, and behavior issues.
2. Pet-proof your home. Store dangerous and toxic materials and choking hazards out of reach. Check the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals (ASPCA) [list of toxic plants](#) and remove them from your household. Create a calm, feline-friendly home so your cat can establish a safe, secure, and happy territory.
3. Invest in pet identification. This might include a pet collar with identification tag and current contact information, plus a microchip. Take photographs of your cat since pictures are useful in finding missing pets. According to ASPCA, one-third of pets will be lost, stolen, or separated from their owner during their lifetime.
4. Include pets in preparedness and evacuation plans. Create a portable pet emergency kit with medical records, water and food bowls, pet food, litter box, and medications. Additionally, pet owners may want to refer to or download ASPCA's [disaster preparedness checklist](#) for more tips about pet safety.
5. Solve the "indoor/outdoor" dilemma by adding an outdoor cat enclosure, or catio, which can provide a calm, safe, and enriching environment, along with other [benefits](#).

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CATIO PLAN GIVEAWAY (25 winners):

<https://catiospaces.com/giveaway/>

VIRTUAL CATIO TOUR VIDEO SHOWCASE:

<https://tinyurl.com/CatioSpaces-VideoShowcase>

In 2018, the American Association of Feline Practitioners issued a position statement on safe indoor/outdoor living arrangements. It declares, “By establishing a safe space outdoors, like a catio, your cat can gain the benefits of being outdoors without the risk of injury, predation or theft.”

Representatives of other animal welfare organizations have also spoken in favor of catios:

“Providing cats with outdoor access in enclosures ensures we are good cat owners and good neighbors. It means being responsible for wildlife, responsible for community space, and responsible for the safety of our cats.”

~ Jennifer Hillman, Vice President, Wildlife Protection, The Humane Society of the United States.

“Free roaming cats and feral cats are responsible for killing billions of birds each year. Catios are a win/win solution for cats to be safe from predators while outdoors, and to protect birds from predation by cats.”

~ Caley Zuzula, Education and Program Coordinator, Travis Audubon, Austin Texas.



Helping cats, birds and wildlife all stay safe is a founding principle of Catio Spaces, according to Chomos. Her company is a founding partner of an annual catio tour in Seattle, a one-day, self-guided tour with proceeds benefiting PAWS, an organization that helps cats, dogs and wild animals go home and thrive.

Due to the pandemic, no Seattle tour is scheduled this year, but Catio Spaces offers a “Catio Tour” Video Showcase featuring a variety of catios for a window, patio, deck, garden, or yard. A [directory of catio tours](#) is listed on the Catio Spaces website, where visitors can also find [free catio tips](#), videos, and information on the company’s animal welfare [Affiliate Program](#). The directory also features catio tour blogs including [Catio Tours: A Growing Trend in Feline Enrichment and Safety](#), and [Catios Without Borders: An International Catio Tour](#).

In recognition of the roles animal welfare organizations play in protecting and enhancing the lives of cats and wildlife in their communities, Catio Spaces donates 10% of sales generated by an organization’s efforts to help raise awareness of the benefits of catios and DIY plans from Catio Spaces.



Passionate cat lover Chomos built her first catio in 2013 for her tabby, Serena. While lounging in their “catnap catio” one day, Chomos said she was inspired to start Catio Spaces as a way to combine her feng shui expertise, credentials as a general contractor, and love of design, nature, and cats. From the start, she wanted to address the need for safe and visually appealing outdoor enclosures to enhance the lives of cats.

Since her company’s inception, she has worked with a team of carpenters to build custom catios in the Greater Seattle/Puget Sound area and also created an assortment of [DIY plans](#) for those who want to build their own or hire a carpenter to build the plan for them. Her award-winning DIY plans, available as downloadable PDFs, are offered in a variety of sizes and styles and include tools and materials lists, diagrams and easy-to-follow step-by-step instructions.

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"The most rewarding part of my work is witnessing my 4-legged clients step into a catio for the first time, breathing fresh air, feeling the wind in their whiskers, and seeing their happy tails exploring their new territory. I also feel good knowing my work helps protect birds and other wildlife."

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Note to editors: If using these photos, or others from Catio Spaces' photo library, please credit Catio Spaces. See additional images in the Catio Spaces [Photo Gallery](#) and [Video Showcase](#).

Got 2 minutes? See ["Catics & Happy Cats"](#) video: <https://catiospaces.com/catics-cat-enclosures/videos/catics-and-happy-cats/>

