



CATIO SPACES®

Designing Spaces for Safe, Healthy & Happy Cats

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(credit: Catio Spaces™)

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Animal welfare advocate offers tips, DIY plans to help keep pets with spring fever out of harm's way

SEATTLE, Washington (February 21, 2023) -- Spring is on its way and pets are yearning to spend more time outdoors. Along with a desire to bask in warm, bright sunshine and fresh air, pets with spring fever may display other telltale signs. Early morning wake-up calls, more mischievous behavior, bursts of energy, shedding or restlessness are among common symptoms.

Veterinarians remind pet parents to resist the urge to let their beloved four-legged family members roam freely. The risks are undeniable. From being hit by a vehicle to ingesting poisons, pets that are unattended are vulnerable to injuries or illness – and they could pose risks to other animals.

Research by pet insurers and industry groups shows chew hazards, eating foreign objects, exposure to toxic substances, bite wounds, and predators are among leading causes of pet injuries or illness. Veterinarians and poison control centers are also reporting rising cases of animals that have accidentally ingested marijuana, medications or other drugs, sometimes from dropped items on sidewalks and parks. These incidents can result in unplanned – and sometimes, very heart-wrenching and expensive -- trips to veterinarians or animal hospitals.



Animal welfare advocate Cynthia Chomos, founder and DIY designer at [Catio Spaces™](#) believes protecting pets is a responsibility every pet parent should take seriously. “Our beloved companions should have easy access to fresh water, food and exercise, and protection from injury, disease, fear, and distress. Unattended pets, even when left alone briefly, are vulnerable to hazards or even life-threatening illnesses.”

For curious cats, a catio can be the cure, as well as a satisfying DIY home improvement project.

“At Catio Spaces, we value the role pets play in our lives,” says Chomos, adding, “While fences may be suitable for dogs, they’re not a solution for adventure-seeking cats who can be fearless climbers. Our goal is to provide felines and those who care for them with a beautiful and secure outdoor space that complements a home or garden and caters to a cat’s curiosity and craving for the outdoors.”

Cats have a natural hunting instinct to assess their environment for prey but can themselves become prey. Having clients whose cats are notorious door-dashers, fence climbers and escape artists, Chomos knows a feline’s curiosity and desires to enjoy fresh air, ever-changing outdoor scenery and sounds are not easily contained. Enclosures built specifically to contain a cat can tame those temptations.

With spring fever and bird breeding season underway, building a catio can be a fun and rewarding home improvement project for do-it-yourselfers, suggests Chomos. Protecting birds and wildlife are among [10 top benefits](#) of catios on her website.

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“Every bird matters. There’s nothing as heartbreaking as ‘feathered gifts’ deposited at a doorstep by a free-roaming cat”. Research by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) shows owned, free-roaming cats kill more than 700 million birds in the U.S. each year.

“I’m passionate about educating cat parents about catios,” says Chomos. She started building custom outdoor enclosures (“catios,” or cat patios) in 2014. This licensed contractor says there are many options for creating safe environments for cats, with catios being an increasingly popular solution.

“A well-built catio offers a combination of safety, stimulation, comfort, and peace of mind. It can also provide an attractive solution to the ‘indoor/outdoor’ dilemma many cat parents face,” says Chomos, who applies her expertise as a feng shui expert to designing aesthetically pleasing custom catios and do-it-yourself, [DIY catio plans](#).

“With loss of habitat and other factors affecting bird populations, catios are a great way to support bird conservation,” Chomos remarked.



To keep cats safe and happy outdoors, Catio Spaces offers various resources including [free catio tips](#), the [Catio Cats’ Guide to Birdwatching](#), and [How to Create a Cat and Bird-Friendly Garden](#).

Before adding a catio, whether considering a kit, a [DIY plan](#), or hiring a carpenter, project planners should be mindful of several [common mistakes](#) to avoid, Chomos suggests. “When building a catio, you want it to last and provide freedom from stress and worry. Planning and making some sensible up-front decisions can ensure your catio is a safe, enriching, and attractive haven that you and your cat will enjoy.”

Award-winning [DIY plans](#) from Catio Spaces take the guesswork out of building a catio by including step-by-step instructions, diagrams, plus a tools and materials list. The company offers downloadable designs and sizes for a window, patio, deck, garden or yard. Also available are DIY plans for [tunnels](#) with various configurations for connecting to freestanding enclosures, and plans for [window box catios](#) and [litter boxes](#).

Materials for all plans are available from local home improvement and lumber stores, according to Chomos. Cat parents can build the DIY catio themselves or hire a local carpenter to build the plan for them. “Catio cats enjoy the freedom of moving from the cozy familiarity of the indoors to a safe and stimulating outdoor environment while providing peace of mind for cat parents,” she noted.

As a supporter of animal welfare organizations, Chomos has worked with the Humane Society of the United States, the National Wildlife Federation, numerous Audubon chapters, and other groups to build awareness of solutions to keep cats and wild birds safe.

To support such organizations, Catio Spaces has an **Affiliate Program** whereby animal welfare organizations and advocates that help build awareness of the benefits of catios can generate revenue for their cause. Enrolled organizations receive a unique promotional code, supporting materials including social media posts, photos, and tips to support their community outreach. Catio Spaces donates 10% of any sales back to the participating organization.

“Creating safe spaces indoors and out for all family members helps create harmony for happier homes and happier pets. It’s a joy to be involved every day with cat safety and enrichment while also protecting birds and wildlife. Life is good in a catio!”

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About Cynthia Chomos

Cynthia Chomos is a Feng Shui consultant, catio designer/builder and the founder of Catio Spaces, creating harmonious indoor and outdoor spaces for her 4-legged and 2-legged clients. She lives in Seattle with her adorable tabby Serena (who has **four catios**) and is the inspiration for Catio Spaces.

As a proponent for the health and happiness of animals, Chomos combines her experiences and passions to promote pet safety and wellness. She is a founding organizer of **Catio Tour Seattle**, sponsored by Catio Spaces and The Humane Society of the United States.

LINKS:

Catio Spaces: <https://catiospaces.com/>

Benefits of Catios: <https://catiospaces.com/catios-cat-enclosures/why-a-catio/>

Free Catio Tips: <https://catiospaces.com/catios-cat-enclosures/free-tips/>

DIY Catio Plans: <https://catiospaces.com/catios-cat-enclosures/diy-plans/>

Catio Cats Guide to Birdwatching:

<https://catiospaces.com/catios-cat-enclosures/free-tips/a-catio-cats-guide-to-birdwatching/>

How to Create a Bird-Safe Garden: <https://catiospaces.com/animal-welfare/save-birds-wildlife/love-cats-birds-and-gardens-heres-how-to-create-a-bird-safe-garden/>

Catio Fun video (90 seconds):

<https://catiospaces.com/catios-cat-enclosures/videos/catio-showcase-fun-music-video/>

Affiliate Program (fundraising for animal welfare organizations):

<https://catiospaces.com/animal-welfare/affiliate-program/>

PHOTO GALLERY: <https://catiospaces.com/photo-gallery/>

Note: **High resolution images are available** for use with attribution. Please contact Cynthia Chomos at 206-919-0107 or cynthia@catiospaces.com for details and arrangements.