



ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT FOR INDOOR CATS



Owners are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of keeping cats inside.

The benefits are:

- ◆ That cats cannot kill or injure wildlife
- ◆ The neighbours and their animals will have full residential enjoyment
- ◆ That cats are less likely to be injured by traffic, abused by children, adopted or stolen
- ◆ They are less likely to catch feline AIDS and feline LEUKAEMIA
- ◆ The cats will be home when their owners return

Cats can be kept indoors in a humane and satisfying manner. They can be given a daily environment, which provides complexity, unpredictability and choice - the things that make life interesting. This can be done by:

- ◆ Providing areas such as shelves, window ledges or screened enclosure where they can lie at different times of the day to get the sun, fresh air, and a view of the world outside.
- ◆ Providing a scratch post. This should have a fabric which claws can be drawn out without snagging, firmly wrapped around a piece of wood (about 600mm high x 100mm wide x 100mm deep) which is upright in a base of wood.
- ◆ Taking for an excursion outside your home in your arms or on a harness.
- ◆ Providing as much TLC (tender loving care) as possible by having them on your lap, carrying around, stroking, and brushing them with a soft brush.
- ◆ Playing hide and seek with them.
- ◆ Blowing non- toxic soap bubbles for them to chase and burst
- ◆ Providing an indoor tree with platforms and angles, on which they can climb and rest at different heights.
- ◆ Throwing hollow plastic golf balls leaving them around the house.
- ◆ Hiding treats such as dried cat food around the house for them to hunt and discover.
- ◆ Providing a regular supply of card board boxes or paper bags for them to explore
- ◆ Having plant pots containing grass, or catnip for them to chew.
- ◆ Get them used to chasing feathery toys, golf balls, laser pointers, kitty kongs, scrunched up newspaper.
- ◆ **WE DON'T RECOMMEND BALLS OF STRING OR WOOL**