



## How to Decrease Your Cat's Risk of Going Missing

Even indoor-only cats get out sometimes, and the likelihood goes up in the summer when there are fireworks, thunderstorms, and more people coming and going from your home. Here are a few important steps you can take to decrease your cat's chances of getting out, getting lost, and getting injured.

- **Close Windows:** Don't leave windows open when you go out, even if you have window screens.
- **Double Check for Escape Holes:** Check for torn screens. Your cat might love to sit in front of an open window, but first make sure the screen is intact. Even so, you still need to be careful. Cats can easily press against a screen and pop it open.
- **Lock Up on the Fourth:** Lock cat/dog doors when fireworks or thunderstorms are expected. Not only could your kitty bolt when startled by the loud booms, but another cat (or dog) could bolt IN!
- **Make Inside Fun:** If you're worried that your cat is getting bored or sedentary in their indoor-only environment, there's plenty you can do to keep them entertained and engaged.
- **Get Microchipped:** Because mistakes can happen, and cats are fast, make sure your indoor-only cat is microchipped. Cat already microchipped? It's a good idea to check each year that your registered contact information is up-to-date.
- **Get a Collar:** In addition to a microchip, give your cat a collar and up-to-date ID tag. Ideally, use a break-away collar to avoid the risk of accidental strangulation. A collar not only provides a second way for other people to return your cat to you, but it indicates to the world that your cat has a home and is not a stray or feral.
- **Teach Your Cat:** Train your cat not to "door dart." Yes, you can train a cat to come, stay, sit, and just about anything else you want... including "go to mat" to help prevent door darting.
- **Watch Out for Little Ones:** Remind your kids that your cat is indoor-only and to be sure to double check that doors are closed behind them. (It's also a good time to remind them to check for cat paws, heads, and tails in doors before closing them.)
- **Watch Out for Guests:** Let guests know that your cat is indoor-only. Visitors might inadvertently leave open a door or linger in open doorways long enough for your cat to escape.