

## Why you should keep your cat inside...

- Car strikes - Thousands of cats get hit by cars every year. If they are lucky, they die instantly.
- Car engines - Cats seek warmth. In the winter they tend to climb up inside car engines where they can be subsequently maimed when the car is started.
- Anti-freeze - Cats like the sweet taste of anti-freeze, and they will lick it if able. Anti-freeze is extremely toxic and your cat will die a painful death within hours of ingesting it. It can take less than a teaspoon to kill a full-size cat or dog!
- Poisoning - There are people who don't like cats and will set out poison on their property. Others may put poison out to get rid of other wildlife that wanders onto their property and your cat may accidentally ingest it. Your cat could also be unintentionally poisoned by pesticides, lawn products, etc.
- Fighting - Your cat could be killed by dogs, raccoons, or other wildlife. Some people train their dogs to attack and kill cats.
- FELV, FIV and FIP - Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunosuppressive Virus destroy a cat's immune system. They are transmitted through body fluids. The vaccine for FELV is only 70 to 75% effective. Cats infected usually die within two years. There is no vaccination for FIV. FIP is always 100% fatal. Tests and vaccines for FIP are not reliable.
- Animal Abuse - Your cat might encounter an adult or a child with cruel intentions. Cats are often shot with BB guns, burned with firecrackers, thrown and otherwise tortured, causing loss of limbs, eyes, etc.
- Getting Trapped - Your cat could get trapped in someone else's rental unit, garage or utility shed. He could suffer brain damage if trapped in extreme heat or could suffer frostbite if trapped in extreme cold. Many cats starve to death this way.
- Research Labs - Your cat could get stolen and sold to a research lab.
- Parasitic Infections - Your cat could eat something (rat, mouse, bird) and die of a parasitic infection.
- Fleas, ticks, worms, ringworm - Once your cat has been out and about, she could transmit these to other pets and people in the household.
- Drowning - Your cat could accidentally fall in a swimming pool or sewer drain and drown.
- And then there's wildlife - Domestic cats, even when fed regularly, retain their innate desire to hunt. Millions of native birds and other small animals are killed annually by domestic cats. These creatures often suffer for hours or days with infection before perishing. They may also carry diseases which will subsequently harm or kill your cat.
- Remember that there are plenty of toys, videos and methods for keeping your cat amused. Please do the right thing for everyone and keep your cat inside the house all the time.

CASAS is the Carrie A Seaman Animal Shelter in Provincetown, a no-kill shelter designed to support the wonderful animals of the Lower Cape.  
Please visit our website: [www.casasanimalshelter.org](http://www.casasanimalshelter.org)