



Catio-Dadio!

If your cat insists on going outside then build a catio! Outdoor cats can get lost, sick or injured. They also hunt birds and other small animals. More and more people are now building safe, fun outdoor spaces for their cats – catios! Big or small, catios will satisfy your cat's urge to be outside.

*Google "cat enclosures" for more ideas.



INDOOR HAVEN: Use cat trees and shelves so indoor cats can climb and perch.



Did you know the majority of people keep their cats indoors only? Check out *Catification* and *Catify to Satisfy* by cat whisperer Jackson Galaxy and Kate Benjamin. These books → are packed with ideas on ways to make fun cat spaces inside and out.

DELUXE HABITAT: An ideal catio has lots of climbing, perching and hiding spots. This 20-by-24-foot habitat built for Joyce and Pat Mastin of Madison County, Alabama gives their five cats the purrfect outdoor space. Bob Gathany sent *Bark!* this photo. **Share a photo of your catio.** Email it to kids@spca.bc.ca.

Original article here: www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2013/08/cat_house_or_catio_this_outdoo.html.



A bench for human friends to visit!



PERIMETER PROJECT: Cat lover Julia Konya created a backyard enclosure so her cats could walk out to a secret cat fort. See more photos at cuckoo4design.com.

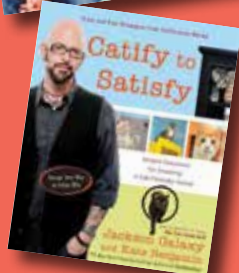
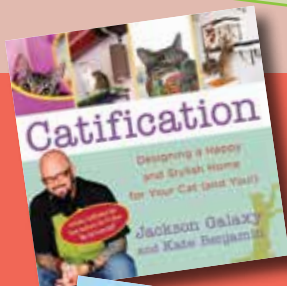
*You can even buy ready-to-assemble “cat enclosure kits” for your deck or backyard.



Lots of plants create shade and privacy



Take a nap halfway there



Take the Cat

You have wanted to adopt a kitten from the SPCA for a long time. You talk it over with your parents and they have allowed you to start looking for a new kitten. From the BC SPCA website you find a four-month-old female kitten. Take this quiz to determine if you are ready to be the guardian of your new pet.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What type of food will you feed your kitten?

- ☐ a. Adult cat food
- ☐ b. She will eat whatever I eat
- ☐ c. Kitten food
- ☐ d. Let her go out and hunt for food



2. What type of identification (ID) will you get for your kitten?

- ☐ a. A quick release collar with an ID tag
- ☐ b. Small dog collar with an ID tag
- ☐ c. Microchip implant
- ☐ d. Ear tattoo from a veterinary clinic
- ☐ e. One of, or a combination of, a, c or d



3. When will you spay your kitten?

- ☐ a. When she turns one
- ☐ b. Before she turns six months
- ☐ c. She will stay indoors and doesn't need to be spayed
- ☐ d. I will not let her around male cats

4. How often will you scoop and change the litter?

- ☐ a. Scoop once a week, change entire litter every month
- ☐ b. Scoop and change the entire litter every week
- ☐ c. Scoop daily and change entire litter weekly
- ☐ d. Don't need litter, she will do her business outside
- ☐ e. I don't do poop!

5. What will you do to provide an interesting and fun environment for your kitten?

- ☐ a. Provide plenty of perching and hiding areas
- ☐ b. Make or buy scratching posts
- ☐ c. Buy or make some fun and interactive cat toys
- ☐ d. All of the above
- ☐ e. Cats can entertain themselves

Care Challenge

6. How often will you take your cat to a veterinary clinic?

- ☐ a. Once a year for a check-up, vaccinations and when she is sick
- ☐ b. Just once to get her vaccinations and spay surgery
- ☐ c. Only when she is sick
- ☐ d. My cat will be indoors, she will not need to see a doctor

7. If your family goes on vacation what will you do with your cat?

- ☐ a. Leave her with a family member or friend, or have them come to your home
- ☐ b. Leave her at home with enough food and water to last her until I come home
- ☐ c. Take her to a boarding kennel
- ☐ d. Either a or c
- ☐ e. Leave her outside

8. What other steps will you take to maintain your cat's health?

- ☐ a. Brush her fur and take care of her teeth
- ☐ b. Check her ears and body for mites and fleas
- ☐ c. All of the above
- ☐ d. Cats take care of themselves

9. How much time will you spend with your cat?

- ☐ a. Whenever I feel like it
- ☐ b. I plan to set aside time each day to play with her
- ☐ c. An hour each week
- ☐ d. Whenever the cat comes to find me
- ☐ e. Cats amuse themselves

10. After the initial costs, how much, on average will it cost to care for a cat for one year?

- ☐ a. \$100/year
- ☐ b. \$300/year
- ☐ c. \$700/year
- ☐ d. Over \$1000/year



Results
Tally up your points, here is the answer key:
1. c 2. One point for a, c, d or e – bonus point if you answered d
3. b 4. c 5. One point for a, b, c or d – bonus point if you answered c
6. a 7. One point for a, c or d
8. One point for a, b or c – bonus point if you answered c
9. b 10. c

Here's how you rate...

10 to 13 points – Congratulations! You have done enough research and are ready to now be the guardian of your new kitten! But don't forget to go back and review the questions that you didn't answer correctly.

6 to 9 points – Almost there! You know a lot about cat care but should probably do a little bit more work before you adopt a kitten. Visit www.sPCA.bc.ca for more information about cat care or visit your local library or bookstore to read more about it.

0 to 5 points – Get yourself a stuffed animal first while you do more research on how to care for a kitten/cat. You are not quite ready to take on full responsibility of a cat. Go to www.sPCA.bc.ca, visit your local library or bookstore for more information on cat care. You may also consider helping a friend or relative care for their cat for a while. Afterwards, take this quiz again, we are positive you will be ready to adopt a cat!

Remember: Adopting an animal is a family decision. Make sure that everyone in your household is ready to welcome a new member to the family!

