

The Law:

Restraint Requirements.

- 🐾 **Physical Restraint.** A person owning or having charge, custody, or care over an **animal** shall keep the animal under humane physical restraint at all times.
- 🐾 **Owner's Premises.** A person owning or having charge, custody, or care over an **animal** on his or her premises shall restrain the animal either by a secure enclosure or by immediate control.
 - 🐾 All pens, kennels, stalls, corrals, or other enclosures used to restrain an animal shall be continuously maintained with preservatives, fasteners, and other materials to prevent deterioration and animal escape. Substantial and acceptable locking or latching devices shall be installed on all gates and doors to animal enclosures in such a manner as to be inaccessible to animals and small children in order to prevent animal escape and unauthorized entry.
- 🐾 **Public Premises.** A person owning or having charge, custody, or care over an **animal** off of his or her premises shall keep the animal under immediate control.
 - 🐾 A leash used to restrain an **animal** shall be of suitable length so as to enable the handler to maintain control of the animal under the specific circumstances.
 - 🐾 A person shall not carry an animal in or upon any vehicle in a cruel, inhumane, or unsafe manner. Animals carried in the open bed of a vehicle shall be crated or restrained upon a non-slick surface and in a manner that prevents the animal from jumping out of the vehicle.
- 🐾 **HARBOR** - To allow, either intentionally or unintentionally, any stray animal to linger on one's premises by feeding such animal without making all effective provisions for such animal as required by this Article. Persons harboring an animal shall be subject to the provisions of this Article applicable to animal caretakers.

For the Complete Ordinance please visit:
<http://donaanacounty.org/animal/>



Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide efficient and quality service to the citizens of Doña Ana County by providing protection for them and their property from the dangers and nuisances caused by stray animals, to protect pets from the cruelty they may face from irresponsible citizens, and to educate the public in the responsibilities of pet ownership, animal control, care, and welfare.

Contact Us:

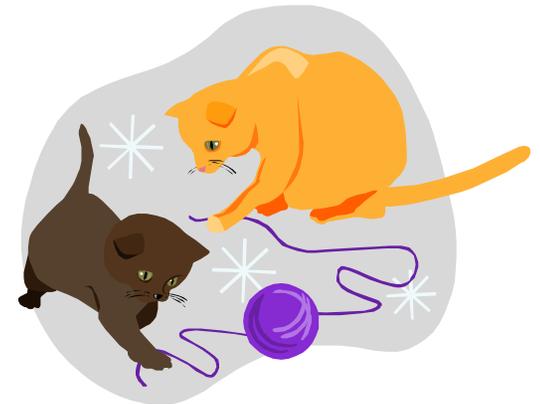
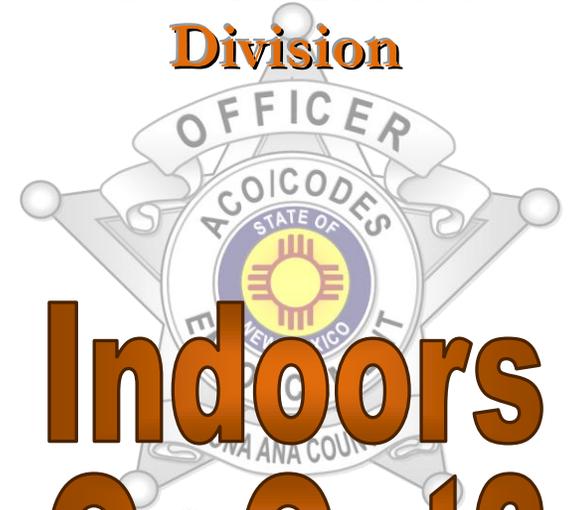
Central Dispatch:
1-800-260-0911

Our Offices:
575-525-8846
2024 E. Griggs
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Website:
<http://donaanacounty.org/animal/>

Doña Ana County

Animal Control Division





Indoors or Out?

Ever wonder what goes on behind closed doors?

Healthy, safe cats live out their entire lives, for one thing. If you want your cat to live to a ripe old age, the best thing you can do for him/her is keep him/her inside. Allowing your cat to wander around on her own, without your supervision, makes him/her susceptible to any of the following life-shortening—and often painful—tragedies:

- 🐾 Being hit by a car.
- 🐾 Ingesting a deadly poison like antifreeze, rat poison or a pesticide.
- 🐾 Being trapped by an unhappy neighbor.
- 🐾 Being attacked by a roaming dog, cat, or wild animal.
- 🐾 Contracting a disease from another animal.
- 🐾 Becoming lost and unable to find his/her way home.
- 🐾 Being stolen.
- 🐾 Encountering an adult or child with cruel intentions.



Some people believe there are good reasons to allow their cat to be outdoors without their supervision, so we've included a number of these objections along with our comments and suggestions.

"But I have a six-foot fence."

Unless you have special fencing that's designed to prevent a cat from climbing out, your cat will be able to scale your fence and escape the confines of your yard. If you do have special fencing, make sure that it can keep other cats or animals from getting into your yard to injure your cat.

"But my last cat went outdoors and he loved it."

Your cat may enjoy being outdoors, but by allowing him/her to go outside unsupervised you're putting him/her at risk for a **shortened life span**. The expected life span of an indoor-outdoor cat will depend on several factors, including the type of neighborhood you live in and **sheer luck**. But, on average, cats who are allowed to roam outdoors often don't live to see age five. Cats who are always kept safely confined can live to be 18 to 20 years old.

"But my cat's litter box smells."

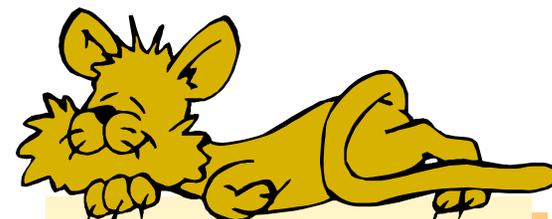
Scoop your cat's litter box on a **daily basis**. Replacing the litter twice a week is a general guideline for clay litter, but depending on the circumstances, you may need to change it every other day or once a week.

"But my cat likes to sun herself."

Your cat can safely sun him/herself indoors by lying near a window. If you're really intent on letting your cat outdoors, put him/her on a harness and leash and stay with his/her while she's taking in the rays.

"But I can't keep him in."

You can change your cat's behavior. It will take time and patience, but it might save his/her life. Keep your windows closed or install screens. Remember to always keep your doors closed and teach your children the importance of keeping the doors closed, too. It may take a few days or a few weeks, but if there are enough interesting things for your cat to play with indoors, he/she will come to enjoy being indoors. At first he/she may cry, but don't give in—more often than not, he/she will soon be happy to stay indoors with you.



Educational material for this flier was obtained from the HSUS at: <http://www.hsus.org/>
And from the Dumb Friends League at: <http://www.ddfl.org/>