



Lightfoot Ragdolls

and Cherubims

INDOOR OR OUTDOOR?

Not long ago I was in Virginia at a historical site, and a cat walked right up to me and flopped down. It was not a ragdoll, but it was so cute. My husband made a joke...no matter where you are....

So, what is the deal about a cat being outside? Some people take their ragdolls outside and keep an eye on them in the yard. You would want to make sure you didn't have anything like tulips or lilies in your yard for the cat to get poisoned by. Some people make a catio that their cat can be outside the house in an enclosed area. It kind of terrifies me with the idea to take my cat out, even in a fenced yard, as I've seen strays and other people's outdoor cats on my 6' fence and in my yard. What if my cat got startled or saw a bird it wanted to chase and it took off? It's not like most cats will come when called if they have something wonderful to distract them.

So the dangers for outdoor cats:

- *Getting hit by a car
- *Getting in a fight with another cat or a dog
- *Exposure to dangerous substances-- plants or chemicals
- *Getting picked up by someone that wants a cat
- *Getting teased by less-than-kind people
- *Bad weather
- *Getting lost and not making it back home
- *Illness and disease. Cats that get bitten by another animal outside can develop many diseases that they just won't develop if they are always inside, such as FeLV, FIV
- *Parasites, ticks, mosquito bites that can make them sick

Whether you plan on your cat being inside all the time or let them out occasionally, even supervised, it's wise to have them microchipped. Several years ago, my whole family was over for a while. We all left to go to an activity and one of the grandkids didn't get the back door closed all the way. When we got home, the door was open. We frantically looked for all the cats—like at least 6 or 8. Everyone had stayed inside but my stud. My stud had been out with a diaper on. We all went outside and looked for him till it was dark. Nothing. We looked around the neighborhood, be posted on social media. We looked for him every day. He had always been a bit timid in new situations and new people. On day 3, my husband, my daughter and her husband were talking in the kitchen. I looked out the back window and saw him sitting in the middle of the grass staring at me. We all scattered different directions to try to get him. He ran under the chimney and the deck. As we tried to get him out from under the deck, he bolted and jumped over the fence. We looked around the neighborhood and nothing. We went in. And a bit later, my husband we into the garage to get something. He saw a tail run around the corner. We finally found him and it took us about 20 minutes to “dig” him out. He was terrified. He was never the same after that. He was more jittery and didn't really trust anyone but my daughter and I. I ended up neutering him not too long after that because he wasn't happy. It took us about a year to find a family that could be patient enough with him for him to get comfortable enough to relax. He went to an amazing home.



I'm positive he never left the backyard, but he was hiding really well. The diaper was by the deck when we were trying to get him out. He had that on for almost 3 days because it wasn't there everytime we went out looking for him.

Microchip your cats! If they do get out and someone finds them, you can be contacted. A collar with a tag with contact info is great, but those can come off. A microchip is there and can be scanned. I would suggest when you go in for vaccinations, that you have your cat scanned to make sure it's still findable. Occasionally they move and will be missed in a scan. You may have to chip them again if that's the case.