Catio Tour
April 9 2016

Native Animal Rescue
Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

Take the tour and be inspired by the ingenuity of eleven Santa Cruz County cat owners providing unique CATIOS, outdoor enclosures for their cats!
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Get inspired and learn how to keep your cats safe, happy, and out of the food chain!

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We are striving to be a model for communities who want to work together to keep their pets, wildlife and ecosystems safe!

Catos: Safe Space for All!

What do bird lovers and cat lovers all have in common? We all want what’s best for the animals we love. Luckily for us there’s a unique solution that keeps cats and birds safe at the same time, and many of our neighbors are using it. Our first annual Catio Tour is a way to explore and celebrate the idea of catos!

A catio is an outdoor enclosure for cats, a place where cats can enjoy the outdoors and still be safe from predators. And just as important, birds can be safe from roaming cats.

We here in Santa Cruz are striving to be a model for other communities who want to work together to keep their pets, wildlife, and ecosystems safe. Birdwatchers, pet owners, protectors of wildlands, and wildlife rehabilitators all have roles in this revolutionary idea.

Catio Tour Day Guidelines

THE TOUR IS SELF-GUIDED FROM 10 AM - 2 PM: You may start at any catio location and go in any order you prefer. Due to the distance between some catios, there may not be time during tour hours to visit all of the catios.

YOUR FIRST CATIO STOP: At your first catio, please stop at the check-in table and receive your wrist band for the day.

CATIO HOSTS: The Catio Hosts will be on-site to answer general questions about the tour. They will be wearing Catio Tour name badges for identification.

LOOK FOR CATIO TOUR SIGNS: In front of each home there will be a sign with the tour logo and the catio number.

CATIO TOUR IS MADE POSSIBLE BY DONATIONS: Please consider supporting this fun educational event with a donation. There are donation jars at each catio along the tour, or you can make donations online at either: www.nativeanimalrescue.org or www.scanimalshelter.org!

IMPORTANT TOUR DETAILS: Smoking is not allowed at any of the properties; restrooms are not available so please plan other pit stops accordingly; please leave all pets at home while taking the tour; when parking in the catio neighborhoods be mindful of parking restrictions and courteous to neighbors; ask questions, take notes, and have fun!

www.nativeanimalrescue.org • www.scanimalshelter.org

Together we can make a dramatic difference!
1. Kitty Lattice-in-Luxury

At a Glance

OWNER: Michelle Reynolds
ADDRESS: 13850 Bear Creek Road, Boulder Creek (close to town)
YEAR BUILT: 2014
TYPE: Enclosure for cats and humans
MATERIALS: Redwood fencing and lattice, clear poly ceiling, composite deck and lighting
APPROXIMATE COST: $1200
FEATURES: Double deck cat benches, feeding station, live tree for scratching, clear fiberglass ceiling for natural light, and space for kitty boxes, chairs and a table for humans, lockable door and toys hanging from rafters.
DESIGNER: Owner Michelle Reynolds

Michelle wanted to create a cozy safe catio where the cats could get sunshine and fresh air in their own catio living room. This catio is beautifully designed to be spacious so that her “fur babies,” grey tabby Larry, black cat Hasani and tuxedo kitty Jetter could have room to play and she could join the party. The cats’ favorite feature is hanging out on the high top bench. Her catio is a stand-alone structure just off the house under the redwoods so it is cool in the summer. Michelle feels strongly that people should build a catio for the cat’s safety and their peace of mind. There are just too many risks and wild predators to let cats fend for themselves in the redwood forests of Santa Cruz County.
2. Catzebo Playland

At a Glance

**OWNER:** Rob and Nona Watson  
**ADDRESS:** 8690 Glen Arbor Road, Ben Lomond  
**YEAR BUILT:** Completed in 2014  
**TYPE:** Two enclosures for cats, one for cats and humans and one tunnel connecting from house to gazebo.  
**MATERIALS:** Fir lumber, wire fencing, portable kennel components, plastic fencing, hardware.  
**APPROXIMATE COST:** $1500  
**FEATURES:** An enclosed gazebo with a door for people and a hole in the ceiling for cats to access it from the tunnel that runs over the deck to inside the house. A large run along the left side of the house and a stand alone closet-sized catio for afternoon sunning.

**DESIGNER & BUILDER:** Owner Rob Watson

Rob Watson and his wife Nona take kitty comfort to a new level. For some time now they have been taking advantage of their house’s layout to create a number of spaces for their three cats to enjoy. Rob has created climbing elements, a space they can race around, and a tunnel to explore that ends up in a “Catzebo” for bird watching where he can sit with them. There is even an area in the backyard where Brodie the Main Coon loves to roll in the grass and nibble the catnip. Baxter the grey shorthair hangs out on the “catwalk” that connects the house to the “Catzebo” and Binky likes the enclosure on the back deck for sunning. Rob says, “Do it for your cat’s safety, health, happiness and your own peace of mind. Just a basic window box is not difficult or expensive.” Check out Rob’s blog catcluez.org.
3. Purr “D” Cat Condo

At a Glance

OWNER: John Pianavilla

ADDRESS: 419 Santa Cruz Street, Santa Cruz

YEAR BUILT: 2014

TYPE: Enclosure for cats only, window box

MATERIALS: Fir lumber, cedar wood, galvanized wire, large insulated cat doors, LED multi-colored lighting, Lexan clear roof panels.

APPROXIMATE COST: $1600

FEATURES: Multi levels of shelves and a tunnel connecting into the home with perches and ramps.

DESIGNER & BUILDER: Owner John Pianavilla, licensed contractor and owner of Purr “D” Cat Condos

Homeowner and catio designer/contractor John Pianavilla designed this cat condo to utilize wasted space surrounding his side entrance. Her sibling, Mako, was bullying his cat Puma so John created this cozy safe outdoor enclosure just for her. She enjoys spending the days lounging safely rain or shine under clear corrugated roof panels which let in the natural light. The catio faces north so it stays comfortable on hot days. Puma’s condo has an entrance at floor level and one higher up to access the multi-level cedar shelves with perches and ramps with custom made rubbing brushes. John has also constructed a window box condo for all the cats off his kitchen. He has six cats in all and feels very strongly it is up to us to keep them safe and enrich their environment so they can have the best life ever. He enjoys the creative aspect of designing environments for the cat’s safety and enjoyment. Each enclosure he builds is designed with the individual personalities of the cats in mind.
What’s the first thing a cat lover does when she moves across from a nature preserve that is home to mountain lions? And what if that cat lover also loves wildlife? She builds a safe sanctuary for her cats, of course. Puck and Sherman, once homeless, now enjoy middle age in the verdant 16’ by 25’ enclosed back yard where they have a branch to scratch, catnip to sniff, and lots of nature to roll in.

Local handyman Wes Koenig installed the Purrfect Fence Cat-Proof™ on top of the existing wooden fence, keeping the cats in and the predators out. It also protects abundant wild bird life from Puck and Sherman. The cats enter the enclosure through a sliding glass door off the kitchen.

Tai is thrilled with the enclosure. “It’s wonderful to know our cats are safe and protected and not harming birds and native wildlife. And in nice weather, the whole family – feline, canine, and human – enjoys the catio together.”
5. The Catatrail

Patty loves watching her cats enjoy sunning themselves in their custom made “Catatrail” overlooking her backyard garden. She can sit with friends on her back deck and watch the cats. Peaches especially loves basking in the sun wherever she finds it. Mimi races from one opening to the next and chirps at the birds when she is in her “feisty cat” mode, and Hugh enjoys lazing under the jasmine that engulfs one end of a tunnel. Patty feels it is so important to give the cats a safe outdoor place to enjoy the sunshine. She says “Just do it. It doesn’t take a lot of space or money”. The cats are safe and so are the birds.
After adopting two active rescue cats, Barbara and Mark realized they couldn’t let them outside on their busy street. They chose instead to build a two-wing catio that fits snuggly into an inside corner of the house.

The unique design provides three cats with many levels, angles and perches from which to watch the backyard action. The larger wing is 6’ wide, 8’ high, and 3’ deep. The smaller wing is 6’ wide, 30” high, and 18” deep. After designing the catio, Barbara and Mark found the construction was “easier than either of us thought it would be.”

Buddy McBoing Boing, Jasper Jazzcat and Leonardo da Kitty enter their catio 24/7 through a cat door in the garage. Each wing of the catio has an opening that gives Barbara and Mark access in an emergency. With the food bowls and litter boxes located indoors, very little maintenance is needed.

Barbara and Mark love their catio. To others, they say, “Do it! Cats love it…It keeps our boys safe.”
To give their two feral cats a full 24/7 outdoor experience, Valerie and Scott completely fenced in their small side and back yards; cats and humans on the inside and other wildlife on the outside. Buck and Johnson are able to enter the enclosure any time of day through a cat door in the living room.

Buck and Johnson enjoy many aspects of the enclosure: bushes for hiding, hot tub lid for sleeping, lemon tree for hanging out, oak trees for bird watching, and rain for getting wet.

When it came time to build, Scott and his father John built upon existing fencing to raise the height of the enclosure. They installed extra bracing to strengthen the wire in order to support raccoon traffic.

For Valerie and Scott, who believe that allowing cats to roam the neighborhood is dangerous for cats and birds, creating a fulfilling environment for their cats was a dream come true. Their advice to others: “Do it! I love that the cats can still be outside and protected. I love that they can’t hunt wildlife.”
8. Chillin Catios

At a Glance

**OWNER:** Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

**ADDRESS:** 2200 7th Avenue, Santa Cruz

**YEAR BUILT:** 2014

**TYPE:** Enclosures for cats and humans

**MATERIALS:** Douglas fir lumber, wire screening, plastic corrugated roofing and hardware.

**APPROXIMATE COST:** Donated

**FEATURES:** Three large attached catios with perches, space to play with toys and chairs for humans

Three years ago Google donated a multi-room, stand-alone catio structure to the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter. It was installed on the back patio behind the shelter’s meeting room. The shelter has volunteers that bring the adoptable cats out to play in small, inside greeting rooms daily. But on pleasant sunny days specially trained volunteers bring selected cats out into the larger, screened porch areas of our catios to enjoy an outdoor experience that eases the stress of their stay at the shelter.

Our catios have also been used as a classroom for clicker and positive association training, to help make cats more adoptable. It is a great outlet for high energy cats that don’t particularly care for small spaces and enjoy the smells, sounds and closer interaction in a semi-natural setting. Cats that enjoy the catio are usually restless in their kennel, but when they return from a day outside in the sun they are relaxed and ready for a nap.
This efficiently designed two level enclosure offers Shane a grand view of backyard activity and room to stretch while protecting him from neighborhood coyotes and mountain lions. The upper level of the catio abuts the kitchen window, and the cat door from the kitchen to the catio can be entered when the kitchen window is open. This suits Vicky and Randy who like to be able to keep Shane indoors during inclement weather.

The catio is about 4’ wide, 7’ high, and 2’ deep. Shane enters onto a platform where he likes to lie in the sun. He then hops down to the lower level where he does his stretches.

On one side of the catio, there’s a low door through which Vicky and John can enter. But because Shane’s food bowl and litter box are indoors, very little maintenance is needed.

The Delucchis are very pleased with this catio. “It was a great investment, and we feel it was the right thing to do to protect our cat. Shane loves it, and we love that he is so happy.”
After a beloved cat abruptly disappeared, Charlea Massion decided to provide her three cats with safe access to the outdoors while protecting birds and other small animals from her feline family. She designed a 20’ by 25’ area adjacent to her house that includes fruit trees, a raised planting bed, a worm composting bin, many places for cats to lounge, and two sandboxes. The entrance is through a cat door in the laundry room.

Local contractor/handyman Craig Anderson built a fence and installed the Purrfect Fence Cat-Proofer™. Because the enclosure doesn’t have a roof, Charlea installed reflective ribbon to deter birds from entering. Tawny, Benjamin and Chano favor the sunny lounge areas and the two sandboxes they use as litter boxes.

Charlea is a vocal advocate for catios. “Be a responsible cat guardian! Cats are very destructive to wildlife and very vulnerable to cars, coyotes, dogs and other cats with diseases. My cats love their catio, and I love them loving it.”
11. Carita Kitty Casa

At a Glance

OWNER: Elizabeth Munroz
ADDRESS: 10 Carita Court, Watsonville
YEAR BUILT: 2014
TYPE: Enclosure for cats and humans
MATERIALS: Metal garden gazebo frame, fir lumber, 4” fence wire, plastic wall panels, corrugated roofing
APPROXIMATE COST: $2500 for materials
FEATURES: Padded cat walkway and access shelves, double cabinet for cat boxes with fluffy beds on top, three cat towers, two chairs for human cuddling, view of the back garden.

DESIGNER: Owner Elizabeth Munroz and contractor John Pianavilla
BUILDER: John Pianavilla, owner of Purr “D” cat condos

After Elizabeth's beloved 20-year-old cat was killed by a dog, she felt that for her own sanity she had to create a safe environment for her other cats that overlooks the garden and backyard. Each of the cats enjoys the catio in a unique way. Bambi prefers one of the lower access shelves while Timmy moves around the catio with the sun. Ninja the “House-Panther” enjoys being out when it is raining. He seems to like the noise of the rain on the corrugated roofing. The two young cats Boy-Georgie and Pinky play endlessly on the cat towers. “I sit in the morning on one of the chairs to have my tea and it can be challenging with the kitties vying for my lap. The cats love it. They come and go as they please day and night and I know they are safe.”

Photos by John Pianavilla
Resources for Your Inspiration

**DESIGNERS/CONTRACTORS**

**PETER BOSCACCI: CONSTRUCTION AND HANDYMAN SERVICE**
www.peteboscacci.com
License #93110
831.252.2456

**DAVID CARNAGHE**
www.buildzoom.com/contractor/david-a-carnaghe
License #682438
831.466.3207

**WESLEY KOENIG: RENT-A-HUSBAND**
License #655819
831.438.5200

**JOHN PIANAVILLA: PURR “D” CAT CONDOS**
www.purrdcatcondos.com
License #459016
831.429.0139

**TALMADGE CONSTRUCTION**
www.talmadgeconstruction.com
License #458607
831.689.9133

**ABEL RODAS TORRES: CATIOS, PATIOS, FENCES, FLAGSTONE & RETAINING WALLS**
831.435.0067
rodasabel08@gmail.com

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Existing fence conversion system.

**CAT BIBS**

**CAT GOODS, INC.**
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This is the most effective way to stop cats from killing birds for those who have open yards that allow birds in.
Catio Tour Area

Tour Site Addresses: Click names below for Google Map location

1. Kitty Lattice-in-Luxury
   13850 Bear Creek Road, Boulder Creek

2. Catzebo Playland
   8690 Glen Arbor Road, Ben Lomond

3. Purr “D” Cat Condo
   419 Santa Cruz Street, Santa Cruz

4. Garden of Delights
   201 Cypress Park, Santa Cruz

5. The Catatrail
   1711 King Street, Santa Cruz

6. Cats’ Corner
   404 Trevethan Avenue, Santa Cruz

7. Fenced for Fun
   2681 Christine Oaks, Santa Cruz

8. Chillin Catios
   2200 7th Avenue, Santa Cruz

9. Kitty Condo
   3892 Aldo Court, Soquel

10. Nature’s Way
   3235 Cunnison Lane, Soquel

11. Carita Kitty Casa
    10 Carita Court, Watsonville