

HOW TO DISCOURAGE YOUR CAT FROM RUNNING OUT THE DOOR

If you've ever had the misfortune of having to search for your precious cat after it's run out the door, you'll want to review these tips to make sure it doesn't happen again. If it has not happened to you, here are some ways to make sure that it never does. Even if you're lucky enough to have found your missing pet, you don't want to do it again!

1. Put an electronic mat, such as a **ScatMat**, at the door. When your cat steps on the vinyl mat, he'll feel a harmless but unpleasant static pulse that will discourage him from approaching the door. Most pet supply stores sell **ScatMats**.
2. Set up an electronic pet deterrent, such as **StayAway**, near the door. When your cat approaches, the device will make a high-pitched sound that only a cat can hear and will emit a brief, harmless spray of compressed air. You'll find **StayAway** and similar devices at pet supply stores.
3. Put a vinyl desk or chair mat at the door, **cleats up**. You can also use vinyl carpet runner, purchased at home supply stores by the yard, again cleats up. The cleats are uncomfortable underfoot, and your cat will not like walking on them.
4. Keep a squirt bottle at the door and use it! Water is harmless but most cats don't like to be wet.
5. Put some coins in a soda can to create a noisemaker. If your cat approaches the open door, shake the can and say "no" firmly. Make sure that you are between the door and your cat.
6. Set up a "safe-greeting zone" several feet away from the door and don't reward your cat with petting and attention until you're in that zone and far away from the door. Keep some treats in "the zone" and reward him for staying away from the door. Once he knows the boundary, and that there are treats involved, he'll wait there for you to pet him and give him a treat.
7. Spray the door area with cat deterrent, which can be purchased at pet supply stores. They don't like the smell—and spray often so that the smell doesn't wear off.

Precious Pets Almost Home

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