

This is a *rough draft* of a problem/solution paper. It corresponds to the prewriting posted at <http://misterfisher.tripod.com/precats.pdf>.

Cats that roam outside unsupervised are a nuisance to the community and risk danger to themselves. To protect our pets and our environment, we should all vote for the proposed law that requires cats to wear leashes when outside.

At issue is the protection of property, the community, and the animals themselves. When cats are left on their own, many negative consequences occur. For instance, one thing that almost everyone has experienced is being awakened at night by yowling cats. The unwanted noise they bring is not confined to nighttime hours, either. Cats also annoy dogs in their yards day and night, bringing barking that could be avoided. More importantly, cats ruin property. They use children's sandboxes as litter boxes, and they scratch and mark items such as car finishes, outdoor furniture, and young, vulnerable trees. Beyond this, the potential for injury to the cats themselves is high. They fight and kill other animals—which is, of course, a negative consequence for wildlife—and bring to themselves risk of serious injury and rabies infection. Plus, they walk and run in street traffic (and the sight of dead cats in the road is a common one on our busy roads).

When on a leash, though, cats are more disciplined because they are under control. A humane harness or collar will keep them from danger and mischief because they will be properly supervised. They will not be endangering themselves or inconveniencing people around them.

It may seem odd to put a leash on a cat. After all, cats have roamed on their own for the thousands of years that they have been living with humans. A leash seems to go against the fundamental nature of cats. Yet isn't it strange that we would give up control over any tame animal? We do not allow dogs to roam free—even though it is against their nature—because of the problems packs of wild dogs would cause. The behavior of wild dogs is obviously more harmful than that of solitary cats, but the problems coming from cat behavior are still significant. Plus, uncounted cat owners *have* successfully changed their cat's behavior by turning their pets into "indoor cats" that are never allowed to roam outside in any manner.

We live in a community that values its pets as much as its property rights. There is a fair and sensible way to protect both. When you go to the polls in November, please vote "Yes" on Proposition CAT.

I. State the problem/issue and state the brief solution.

II. Support the solution with details.

The details include what problem makes the solution necessary. Make sure the problem is clearly stated and explained so the solution can be compared to it.

This does not have to be more than one paragraph, but it often is.

III. Anticipate an obstacle to your solution, and argue against that obstacle.

This addresses the audience's pre-existing concern.

IV. Make a call to action, then restate/summarize the main idea.

You may reverse the order. Be clear and direct with the call to action.