



## Contacts

**AJ Chlebnik**, Education Program Manager- Progressive Animal Welfare Society, PAWS (425) 412-4026

**Cynthia Chomos**, Founder and Catio Designer, Catio Spaces (206) 919-0107

**Jennifer Hillman**, Vice President Grassroots Outreach & Engagement, The Humane Society of the United States (206) 818-7758

**Seth Shteir**, Conservation Mgr- Seattle Audubon (206) 523-8243 Ext. 112

## Catio Tour Seattle showcases 12 locations that provide enrichment, protection for cats and wildlife

SEATTLE, Washington (June 16, 2017) – Four organizations are joining forces to showcase some of the best feline real estate in North Seattle and South Snohomish County on Saturday, June 24 for the second annual [Catio Tour Seattle](#). The self-guided tour, scheduled from noon until 4 PM showcases a dozen inspirational catios (safe, outdoor enclosures).

[Registered](#) participants will receive a tour map with addresses plus access to valuable resources for enriching the life of one's cat. A \$10 donation to benefit PAWS and its programs is suggested.

The event is hosted by PAWS, The Humane Society of the United States, Catio Spaces, and Seattle Audubon. Cats have a natural instinct to hunt and explore their territories, the sponsors acknowledge, noting catios allow cats to do just that while also protecting local wildlife.

"Catios provide your cat with enrichment including fresh air, exercise, bird watching, and the stimulation of the natural world," said AJ Chlebnik, education program manager for PAWS. "By providing a safe and secure environment, cat guardians can enjoy their peace of mind, spend time with their beloved pet, and protect local birds and wildlife."

"More and more cat owners are recognizing the value of catios. Catio Tour Seattle is a great opportunity for the public to view a variety of sizes and styles of catios. At the same time, participants will learn about ways to ensure your cat lives to a ripe old age and to protect native wildlife," said Cynthia Chomos, the founder and designer of Catio Spaces, a Seattle-based company that designs and builds catios.

Cats make wonderful pets, but, to no surprise to cat owners, they are also expert hunters. Many owners could attest to their pet's incredible hunting prowess around the house - whether attacking a ball of string, pouncing on a toy mouse, or leaping after a laser.

Free-roaming domestic cats kill large numbers of birds in the United States every year and also take heavy tolls on native reptile, amphibian, and mammal populations. In fact, cat attacks accounted for 10-to-15 percent of avian and mammal patients in PAWS' Wildlife Center in 2016.

“Studies show that even a cat’s presence near nesting birds reduces their chance of success in raising their young, due to increased stress and the fact that the alarmed birds often reveal the location of their nest to other watchful predators like crows and ravens”, said Seth Shteir, conservation manager for Seattle Audubon. “By keeping your cat indoors or in a catio, you are reducing a key hazard to migrating and resident birds.”

Besides protecting wildlife, catios provide many other great benefits for your feline companion. Cats left to roam outdoors on their own can contract diseases, stumble into traps, ingest poisons, or fall prey to wild predators, like coyotes. Building a catio for your cat to explore allows them to experience the great outdoors while preventing mishaps.

“Cats with catios are less likely to get lost and live longer than outdoor cats,” said Jennifer Hillman, vice president, grassroots outreach & engagement at The Humane Society of the United States. “The many dangers faced by an outdoor cat can significantly shorten their lifespan, while an indoor cat or a cat with access to a catio for their outdoor adventures can easily live to be over 15 years old.”

Catio Tour Seattle will take place rain or shine; attendees are asked to leave their companion animals at home.

**For more information on Catio Tour Seattle, please visit: [www.catiotourseattle.com](http://www.catiotourseattle.com).**