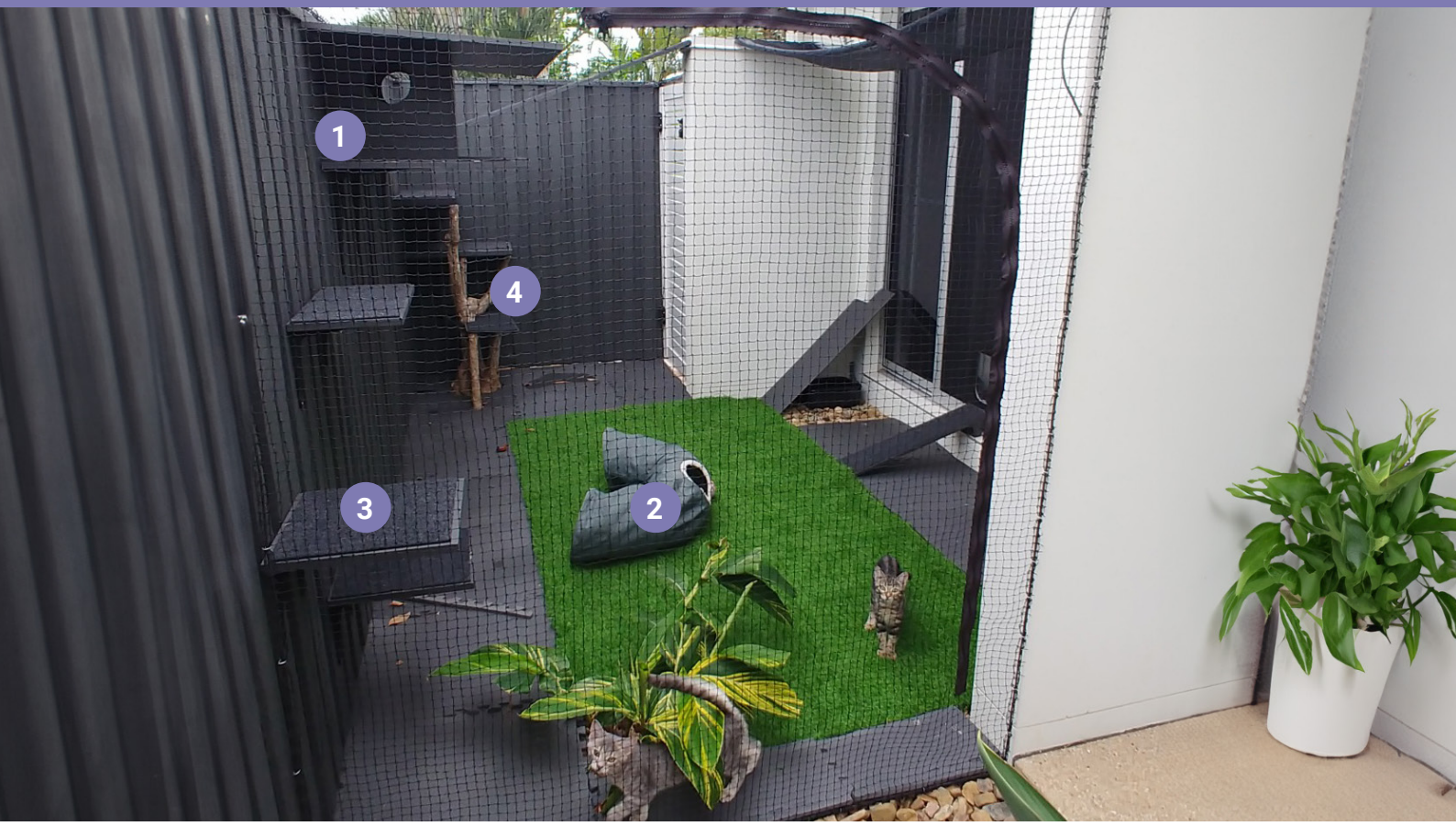
Creating the Purrfect Haven

Essential Elements for an Optimal Cat Enclosure Experience



A furnished catio with (1) weather protection, (2) hiding spots, (3) elevated platforms, and (4) resting spaces.

Cat enclosures or “catios” have become increasingly popular as a way to provide a safe and enriching outdoor experience for our feline companions. Getting the most out of your catio requires thoughtful planning and incorporating various elements that cater to a cat’s physical and psychological well-being.

Catio Essentials

1. **Shaded Areas and Rain Protection:** Just like us, cats need protection from the elements. Ensure there are shaded areas and covered sections within the enclosure to shield your cat from the sun and rain.
2. **Hiding Spots:** Provide secluded spots or cosy shelters for your cat to retreat to in case they feel threatened or scared. These hiding spots help your feline friend feel safe and secure.
3. **Elevated Platforms:** Cats love to perch and observe their surroundings. Install elevated platforms or shelves to give your cat a high vantage point, to overlook their territory and feel safe, as they can detect any potential dangers.
4. **Resting Spaces:** Ensure there are comfortable resting spots with cushions or blankets. Cats love to nap, and providing comfortable resting spaces adds to their overall contentment.

This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.

Deluxe Catio Extras

- **Scratching Surfaces:** Include scratching posts or pads to satisfy your cat's instinct to scratch. This not only keeps their claws healthy but also helps prevent damage to other items in your home.
- **Cat Grass:** Introduce cat-friendly plants or cat grass within the enclosure. This provides a sensory experience for your cat, allowing them to smell and munch on the vegetation.
- **Toys and Hammocks:** Incorporate a variety of toys and hammocks to keep your cat entertained. Interactive toys and comfy hammocks provide mental stimulation and relaxation.
- **Litter Tray and Water Source:** Place a litter tray and a water source within the enclosure for convenience. This ensures that your cat has access to essential facilities while spending time outdoors.
- **Human Interaction Space:** Make the cat enclosure a shared space by adding a comfy chair or bench. Spending bonding time with your cat in the enclosure strengthens your relationship, provides companionship, and also enhances your cat's perception of the enclosure as a pleasant and welcoming environment.
- **Access from the House:** Ideally, have a direct access point from your house to the cat enclosure. This allows your cat the freedom to come and go as they please, promoting a seamless indoor-outdoor experience. Many cats will prefer an access point that is raised off the ground, for example through a window.

Cat enclosures can be both functional and aesthetically pleasing, creating a harmonious space for both cats and their human companions. By incorporating these elements, you can transform your cat enclosure into a haven that enriches your cat's life and provides a delightful retreat for the whole family.

Novelty Items: Keep things interesting by introducing novelty items. Rotate toys, add tunnels, or incorporate new features periodically to stimulate your cat's curiosity.



A catio with (3) elevated platforms.



A catio with (2) hiding spots and (4) resting spaces.

Visit our website for more information, encouragement, inspiration, and to sign up to our community of cat lovers keeping their cats safe at home.

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