

Protecting Kitty from High-Rise Syndrome

Provided by <http://www.aspca.org/>

Summer doesn't officially start until next week, but a distinctly seasonal affliction is already in full bloom. High-Rise Syndrome, a term for when an animal falls out of an open window or off a balcony, affects countless cats every year. Felines are especially vulnerable since their natural prey drive may lead them to pursue birds or insects.

During the warmer months, veterinarians at the ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital in New York City see as many as five cases of High-Rise Syndrome per week—many involving shattered jaws, ruptured lungs, and broken limbs and pelvises.

Just last week, we treated a two-year-old cat named Moreno who fell from his pet parent's apartment window. Luckily, the kitty survived and received treatment courtesy of the ASPCA Trooper Fund, which helps certain needy pets and their families by covering medical expenses.

High-Rise Syndrome is completely preventable, and there is a 90-percent survival rate for feline victims who are given immediate medical attention.

Check out some of our expert tips for keeping kitty safe this summer:

- Install snug-fitting, sturdy screens that are tightly wedged into window frames.
- If your cat falls, assume he has survived and immediately rush him to the nearest animal hospital.
- Go directly to the hospital even if your apartment is on the first or second floor of your building. Shorter falls may prove more dangerous since they don't give cats enough time to adjust their body posture to land correctly.
- Check your balcony or terrace to be sure that kitty cannot fit through ironwork or lounge on the balustrade.
- Use deck netting or wire mesh to ensure safety, and only allow the cat access to a balcony when properly supervised.

For more information about protecting your pet from warm-weather catastrophes, please visit our [Pet Care pages](#).

<http://www.aspca.org/>