

HI-RISE SYNDROME



There is something called **Hi-Rise Syndrome** and it mostly occurs in the Spring and Summer. Any high fall or drop can cause hurt and pain and even worse.

High-Rise Syndrome is the phenomenon of cats falling from higher than two stories, about 23 - 30 feet. This generally occurs from high-risers, but it can also occur in skyscrapers. The term is also used to refer to the injuries sustained by a cat falling from such a height.

Popular myths including the belief that cats can take care of themselves or that they have nine lives seems to have given pet owners the false idea that cats can save themselves from dangerous predicaments. The truth is that cats are as vulnerable to injury as other companion animals and pet owners need to understand how they can prevent their felines from plunging to possible death.



Cats have excellent survival instincts and they don't deliberately jump from high places that would be dangerous. Most cats fall accidentally from high-rise windows, terraces, or fire escapes. Cats can slip through childproof window guards. To fully protect your cat, you should have screens installed in your windows. Cats have an incredible ability to focus their attention on whatever interests them. A bird or other animal attraction can be distracting enough to cause them to lose their balance and fall. Because cats seem to have little fear of heights and enjoy perching in high places, pet owners assume they can take care of themselves. Although they can cling to the bark of trees with their claws, other surfaces are much more difficult such as window ledges, concrete or brick surfaces. When cats fall from high places they don't land squarely on their feet. Instead, they land with their feet slightly splayed apart which can cause severe head and pelvis injuries. It is a misconception that cats won't be injured if they fall from one or two story buildings. They may actually be at greater risk for injury when falling shorter distances than by falling from mid-range or higher altitudes. Shorter distances do not give them enough time to adjust their body posture to fall correctly. Remember that when cats fall from high-rise buildings they may end up on sidewalks or streets that are dangerous and unfamiliar to them.



Never assume that the animal has not survived the fall; immediately rush the animal to the nearest animal hospital or to your veterinarian. There is a 90% survival rate for cats that are high-rise victims if they receive immediate and appropriate medical attention. Cat owners should also make sure they keep their cats indoors to protect them from additional dangers such as cars, other animals, disease or getting lost. People that want to give their cats outdoor stimulation can look into full screen enclosures for backyards and terraces.