

SOLUTIONS TO CAT-RELATED ISSUES



THE VALUE OF TNR FOR EVERYBODY

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the most effective and humane way to reduce the number of community cats and reported nuisance behaviors. In a TNR program, cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated against rabies, and returned to their communities to live out their lives. Because they can no longer breed, the number of cats is reduced naturally over time. Sterilization also stops nuisance behaviors, such as fighting and roaming male cats and yowling females searching for mates. Nuisance behaviors are typically reduced immediately and eliminated completely only a month after the surgery.

CAT CAREGIVER: Most of the time, the cat caregiver did not create the community cat problem. Compassion is what prompts caregivers to feed community cats. Many caregivers do not realize there are resources out there to help them care for the cats and resolve any cat-related issues.

CAT COMPLAINTS: People who complain about community cats feel that outdoor cats are a nuisance because they eliminate in their gardens, yowl at night, and spray smelly urine. Removing the cats will not solve these problems; new cats or unvaccinated animals will move into the deserted territory. There are a number of affordable humane deterrents available to help keep community cats off their property.

TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS

Help community cats be good neighbors:

- Keep the feeding station neat and tidy. Remove all trash and leftover food promptly.
- Feed the cats at a regular place and time during daylight hours and only feed enough to last one feeding. This practice will help the cats get on a schedule and won't attract other wildlife.
- Establish a litter box or sandy area you clean regularly to discourage the cats from eliminating in unwanted areas.
- Provide a shelter so the cats are not resting in places where they are not wanted. There are many options available; search online for feral cat shelters.
- Know your local laws and ordinances. Protect yourself and the cats by knowing your legal rights.
- Share information with your neighbors and keep an ongoing dialog with them. Make sure the deterrents or solutions are working for them.
- Keep accurate records on how many cats you care for and when they were spayed or neutered and vaccinated.

HUMANE DETERRENTS

SMELLS THAT REPEL CATS: To keep cats out of yards or gardens, plant the herb rue or sprinkle dried rue. Tie Irish Spring soap to a bush or tree branch. Citrus or lemon scents, garlic, ammonia, vinegar, coffee grinds, pipe tobacco, citronella, or eucalyptus all deter cats as well. The scents diminish over time, so re-applying is necessary.

NEUTRALIZE ODORS: OdoBan, Nature's Miracle, Fizzion and Simple Solution are effective natural enzyme products that eliminate existing odors, such as urine. They are available at pet supply stores or online.

BLOCK OFF ACCESS: Cats seek out dry, warm shelters away from the elements. Block off access to places, such as under the house or porch, in which you don't want cats (make sure no cats are inside before doing so). Consider providing another low cost shelter nearby to encourage the cat to stay away from those areas.

WATER: A motion-activated sprinkler, like ScareCrow, has an infrared sensor that releases a three-second blast of water when a cat or other large animal approaches. You can find this and similar sprinkler-type repellents online.

SOUND: A motion-activated, ultrasonic alarm, such as CatStop, emits a high-pitched sound that repels cats and other animals, but can't be heard by humans. Amazon and other online retailers sell similar sonic repellents.

DIGGING DETERRENTS: Push chopsticks into potted plants. Use pinecones, lava rocks, concrete pavers or stones as mulch to prevent cats from digging. Place large river rocks throughout the garden or use poultry fencing or landscape wrap around plants.