



Deterring Cats from Your Yard and Garden

Feral and free roaming cats make their home where they find shelter and food, often in close proximity to humans. We understand that not everyone enjoys having cats in their yards or under their porch, and these tips will help you divert cats away from certain areas. Coupled with Trap-Neuter-Return and ongoing care, these quick steps can help you coexist with your neighborhood cats.

Please call us if you suspect there are intact free roaming cats in your area in need of spay and neuter services.

- **Scatter orange and lemon peels or spray with citrus-scented fragrances.** Coffee grounds, or oil of lavender, lemongrass, citronella, or eucalyptus also deter cats.
- **Plant the herb rue** to repel cats, or sprinkle dried rue over the garden.
- **Use plastic carpet runners** spike-side up, covered lightly in soil. They can be found at local hardware or office supply stores. Or, set chicken wire firmly into the dirt with sharp edges rolled under.
- **Try** embedding wooden chopsticks, pinecones, or sticks with dull points deep into the soil with the tops exposed eight inches apart.
- **Cover exposed ground in flower beds** with large, attractive river rocks to prevent cats from digging. (They have the added benefit of deterring weeds.)
- **Establish a litter box** by tilling the soil or placing sand in an out-of-the-way spot in your yard. Keep it clean and free of deposits.
- **Use an aromatic spray product**, such as Dog and Cat Repellent, available at www.gardeners.com and most urban hardware and gardening stores.
- **Install an ultrasonic animal repellent** or a motion-activated water sprinkler, such as the ScareCrow™ or CatStop™ (Contech). Available at <http://www.contech-inc.com>.

Feral and free roaming cats are a part of the city's landscape. If you see cats, are feeding cats, or wish to learn more about having these cats spayed and neutered, please call the SF SPCA Community Cats Program at (415) 522-3539 or email us at communitycats@sfspca.org.