

Humane Deterrents & Tips to Keep Cats Away From Your Garden



When you don't want cats in your yard, dealing with them can be frustrating. Here are some humane and effective solutions to deterring cats from unwanted areas. It's important to be open to a trial by error process while finding a solution that works best for your unique situation and the cats in your area.

If your concern is with outdoor cats, learn about Trap Neuter Return (TNR), the only proven effective long term solution in addressing feral cat populations. Eradication does not work as new cats move in from surrounding areas and it is not humane. Benefits of TNR include less fighting and howling, no more spraying, no new kittens, and a reduction to the population over time.

Deter cats from digging & eliminating in loose soil

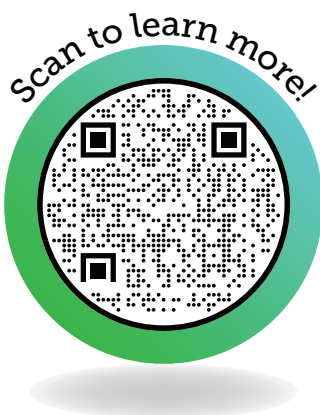
The key to deterring cats from areas with loose soil and plants is to make the dirt uncomfortable.

- Place unpolished pebbles in unplanted areas, or firmly set large or sharp rocks into the dirt. Plant flowers and seeds in the opening of lattice fencing.
- Lay down a CatScat mat, netting, carpet runners, lattice fence, or chicken wire and cover lightly with dirt (with sharp edges rolled into the dirt)
- Embed wood chopsticks, plastic forks, pine cones, or sticks deep into the soil with the tops exposed eight inches apart in potted plants (be careful they aren't too sharp!)
- Use dried up palm fronds to cover exposed dirt, or mulch planted areas with straw
- Plant thorny bushes, agave, cactus or other sharp plants in unwanted areas



Scent Deterrents

Repellants should be re-applied often, and should be sprayed or placed around the edges of the yard, top of fences, in digging or spraying areas. Soak cotton balls, rags or washcloths in substance or hang in cheesecloth.



- Neutralize urine smell first with enzyme solution: OdoBan, Nature's Miracle, Fizzion and Simple Solution (do not use an ammonia-based cleaner. Because urine contains ammonia, this might attract your cat to return to the spot).
- Make a DIY spray vinegar and water with oils such as citrus, lemon and eucalyptus. Other scents to try are garlic, ammonia, vinegar, coffee grinds, pipe tobacco, mustard, and citronella.
- Try planting rue or Coleus Canina (also known as the "pee-off plant" or the "scaredy cat" plant). Both emit a strong odor offensive to cats and other animals.
- Humane Cat Mace from www.naturesmace.com (DO NOT USE POISON – poisons have a direct effect on cats, wildlife and the environment, and build up the food chain poisoning wildcats, coyotes, eagles and other wildlife).

To see the full list of humane cat deterrents and to learn about Trap Neuter Return, visit www.HSSAZ.org/TNR or scan the QR code.