



ARIZONA HUMANE SOCIETY

HOW TO HUMANELY KEEP CATS OUT OF YOUR YARD

Overview

Outdoor cats are very resilient so there are few places they would reject as a potential “home” as long as it provides shelter and protection. This would include abandoned buildings, culverts and overgrown areas with dense vegetation. If you’re wanting to deter outdoor cats, humane habitat modification is a good place to start – plug holes in windows, fencing and doors to help discourage them from colonizing an area – and don’t forget, cats can climb, so overhead fencing may be a consideration as well. Other strategies include sealing entrances to abandoned buildings, plugging holes in the foundation, removing weeds, brush and any accumulated junk from the area.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please ensure that there are no cats inside the property before plugging holes. You can check by sprinkling flour at the entrances/exits and look for footprints leading from the points of entry. Give it a few days to be sure. If no footprints, seal the entry point well.

How To Deter Cats From Taking Up Residence

The following tips provide humane, alternative ways to coexist with our feline friends. You may be surprised to find that cat repellants are plentiful and that the majority are natural:

- **Aromatics**
 - The Coleus Canina plant, planted around your yard, is a natural deterrent. NOTE: There are numerous types of Coleus plants so ensure that the one you order and plant is the COLEUS CANINA. Check with your local or favorite online nursery for this plant. This plant is easily propagated by rooting its cuttings and should be planted every 1-2 yards. Cats are deterred by the smell, which is not discernable to humans unless touched.
 - Cats seem to dislike the scent of citrus so orange and lemon peels scattered in areas where they are seen may be beneficial when it comes to protecting your garden.
 - Rue, an herb, can also be sprinkled in garden areas either dried or planted in the garden itself.
 - Other garden deterrents include the following oils, registered by the EPA for repelling cats: lavender, lemongrass, citronella, citrus, eucalyptus and geranium. Put a few drops around areas you wish to deter cats from entering....flowerboxes, doorways and trees are good candidates. A little goes a long way!
 - Cayenne pepper is said to deter both dogs and cats from helping themselves to your garden greens.
 - **Critter Ridder** is a product made from natural ingredients: oil of black pepper, piperine and capsaicin, which, when encountered by dogs and cats, is an irritant that repels them. Information can be found at havahart.com.
 - **Repels-All Animal Repellent** uses natural ingredients to illicit a flight response when animals taste, touch or smell it.

**These resources are informational only and are not intended to be a recommendation or referral. This list is not all-encompassing and other resources may also be available..*

- **Silent Roar**, a pellet-based cat deterrent made from lion dung, can be purchased from the manufacturer at silentroaronline.com/ or from amazon.com. Please note: the company is based in the UK.
- **Electronics**
 - Havahart hose free, motion activated sprinklers can be found at havahart.com
 - **CatStop**, a motion-activated, ultrasonic cat deterrent can be found at contech-inc.com which also offers **ScareCrow**, a motion activated, burst-of-water, animal deterrent.
- **Other**
 - **Cat Scat Mats** are, "... a humane, chemical-free deterrent to cats digging in the garden." gardeners.com/buy/safe-cat-deterrent/31-954.html?start=17&cgid=OutdoorPestControls_Dept You can also use a clear, plastic carpet runner, placed just under your soil, with the spikes pointing up.
 - **Rough hewn rocks or large river rocks** as a landscaping/garden choice may help to redirect unwanted cats.
 - **Lattice Fencing** found at hardware stores, may deter animals from digging into gardens. Lay them on the ground and then plant flowers and seeds in the openings.
 - **Outdoor Litterbox** – if you don't mind cats in your yard, but prefer they not use it as a litterbox, consider an outdoor Litterbox. Purchase some fine "sandbox sand" from a local garden supply or larger box store like Lowe's or Home Depot. While you're there, pick up a few of the larger plastic containers that you will fill with the sand. When you get your "litterbox" created, place a few pieces of kitty poop in the box just to get things moving forward. Because they will prefer digging in the sand over soil, the cats should switch over swiftly to their new outdoor digs. Place your outdoor litterbox in a remote spot in the yard, scoop out as needed, and replace the sand every month or so.
 - **Wooden chopsticks** embedded deeply into soil in a criss-cross, lattice format, are said to deter cats from foraging in gardens. Sticks are embedded into the soil, about eight inches apart, with tops exposed, **Pinecones** or other wooden sticks may also be used.
 - Try using metallic ribbon or yarn to tie old CD's to trees and letting them hang low. This could also deter unwanted birds from your hard, who may be attractive to cats.

For additional information on outdoor cats, visit somanycats.org or adlaz.org.

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