



## PEACEFULLY COEXISTING WITH CATS IN OUR COMMUNITY

### **SPAY/NEUTER IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO REDUCE THE CAT POPULATION IN OUR COMMUNITIES.**

- Like other animals, cats are generally attracted to a location because it provides a source of food or shelter. Simple measures, such as removing food sources and blocking access to hiding places (after ensuring that the area is free of animals,) can be helpful. Talk to your neighbors too – if they are feeding cats, share the news that the SPCA fixes community cats for free. Trap-neuter-return is the only effective way to reduce the cat population because it ends the cycle of homeless kittens being born.
- Fixing a cat will also reduce community cats' fighting with each other (or with your cats) because it reduces hormones.

### **CATS ARE USING MY YARD AS A LITTERBOX**

- Concrete pavers, river rocks, large pinecones, or large bark to cover soil in planters or flowerbeds, to discourage cats from eliminating in these areas.
- Plastic runners (spike-side up) or chicken wire (sharp edges bent down) can be covered lightly with soil to discourage digging and eliminating in soil.
- Plant decorative herbs and perennials in your yard that some cats may find offensive: rue, scaredy-cat coleus (*Coleus canina*), marigolds, lavender, geranium, petunia.
- Sprinkle cayenne pepper, coffee grounds, pipe tobacco, lemongrass oil, lavender oil, citronella oil, eucalyptus oil, peppermint oil, or mustard oil on the ground to deter cats.
- Cats dislike citrus smells. Use citrus-scented spray, citrus-scented pet bedding such as Citrafresh or simply scatter fresh orange or lemon peels to deter cats.
- Embed wooden chopsticks with the dull side down into the ground 8" apart with the tops exposed.
- Establish a litter box in a designated area of the yard with soil or sand. Keep it clean and free of deposits to encourage its use.
- Lawn and garden stores have many other animal deterrent products.

### **CATS ARE GETTING INTO MY TRASH**

Cats and other wild animals often look for food. To discourage them from coming to your property do not provide a daily food source.

- Secure all trash in cans with tight lids.
- Do not leave human or pet food lying around outside.

### **CATS ARE CLIMBING ON MY VEHICLES**

Cats like to perch on high ground and in the winter, they seek the heat from the engine.

- Try a cover for your vehicles. These covers can be purchased for as low as \$10 - \$20 at Wal-Mart.

## CATS ARE SLEEPING UNDER MY PORCH OR IN MY SHED

Cats look for dry, warm shelter away from the elements.

- Make sure that the area is free of all animals and physically block the entrance with lattice or chicken wire. Cats are very resourceful and will find alternative shelter if you take away this easy access to your home.

In addition, there are a number of humane cat-deterrent products on the market, most of which can be purchased online or at lawn and garden supply stores.

Here is a list of a few cat deterrents:

**Cat Mace:** Keeps cats away by using a highly potent scent that is pleasant to humans but irritating to cats. The product is used as both a repellent and an effective training tool for both indoor and outdoor use. With regular application, on a 1 to 7-day rotation, you'll teach cats to stay clear of lawns, landscapes, indoor areas, garden areas, and more!



**Motion-Activated Sprinkler:** Keeps animals and pests out of plants, yards and gardens using a harmless spray of water. The only deterrent sprinkler on the market with options for day only, night only, or 24 hour protection, giving you the flexibility to ensure the Yard Enforcer only activates when you need it



**PestAway Outdoor Animal & Cat:** This motion sensor activated deterrent emits a high-pitched, ultrasonic alarm that cannot be heard by humans, but will frighten cats and small dogs. Covers 40 foot range of protections and requires two 9-volts battery for operation.



**Cat Scat Mat:** This non-chemical deterrent consists of a plastic mat with prickly plastic teeth that is pressed into the soil. These mats are annoying to cats, but they are safe and discourage defecating in the garden. (Many sources, just type "cat scat" into your search engine or ask at garden supply stores.)



**Shake-Away:** This cat repellent is the one and only product of its kind to contain the genuine territorial marking tool of the cat's most feared predator, the fox. It is safe to use around children, plants and pets. This formula uses only natural ingredients. No chemicals. No poisons.

