



Discouraging Roaming Cats

Do you have a problem with feral or wandering cats in your yard?

You are not alone. Many people have a problem with wandering cats visiting their yard and eating song birds, using their garden and lawn as a litter box or upsetting their indoor cat or dog. You do have the right to enjoy your personal outdoor space. However, it is vital that you use humane methods to solve the problem. Poisoning your neighbor's cat is considered animal cruelty and is unacceptable. Think about who else might consume that poison!



Why are these cats in my yard?

It is not personal! Cats do not act out of spite or jealousy. The cats in your yard are behaving naturally. Cats wander and hunt small prey wherever the prey is available. They prefer to eliminate in places that are soft and they can bury their waste. They enjoy sleeping in sunny spots.

How do I make the problem stop?

Ideally, there would not be a feral cat problem and all owners would keep their cats inside. However, we do not live in a perfect world. You will want to make your yard less attractive to wandering cats.

Repellents

Repellents and devices designed to startle the cat when he is in your yard work best to help him learn to avoid the area. You are catching him “in the act” of being somewhere he should not be. There are many products available that are deemed safe for repelling domestic cats. For example, mothballs work well to prevent cats from digging in gardens. You will want to check to make sure whatever repellent you choose will not harm your plants. There are even specific plants you can plant to help deter cats.



Startle devices

Many people choose to “booby-trap” their yard. They add devices that will surprise the cat and make the yard less attractive to them in the future.

Sounds – some people choose to set up motion-activated alarms to startle the cat. Others will place beans or birdseed on a metal tray and place it in a place the cat likes to perch. When the cat attempts to sit on it, the tray will fall and make a loud noise.

Texture- Making railings, fences, gardens ... undesirable for the cat to stand, dig or walk on can also be helpful. Sticky tape works great for this.



Water- there is a product called the “scare crow” that will shoot water at the cats like a sprinkler. It is motion activated. Regular sprinklers work well too.



Other methods

Talk to the cat’s owner. If you know the cat belongs to your neighbor, you can express your concerns to him. It may encourage your neighbor to confine his cat to the house.

Trapping can also be an option. If you have a relationship with the cat and he is friendly, you can use a humane trap to capture him and bring him to your local animal shelter. If the cat is feral, you can trap the cat get him neutered or spayed and release them. While you will not rid yourself of the current cat population, you will reduce it in the future.



For more information or additional support, please contact the behavior department at (856)424-2288 ext. 114 or behavior@awanj.org.

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