

## Fact Sheet - Cat Deterrent Methods

The WA state government introduced the *Cat Act 2011* to encourage responsible pet ownership by requiring cat owners to register, sterilise and microchip their cats. The City of Albany Rangers are authorised to deal with breaches of the Act, however, there are no provisions in the Act that specifically deals with nuisance cat behaviour.

The City will assist you to reduce the impact of nuisance cat behaviour, however you are initially asked to attempt to resolve the situation trying to discourage the cat. Rangers will only consider trapping a cat when deterrent methods have failed.

If you know who owns the cat, we recommend that you contact the owner and talk to them about the issue.

### **Common nuisance behaviours:**

The following cat behaviours may be considered a nuisance:

- A cat repeatedly entering your garden and spraying on outdoor furniture or defecating in your garden.
- Cats injuring or killing your pets such as birds or guinea pigs.
- Cats entering your house.

Cats are creatures of habit and will often return to the same area regularly for sunning, defecating or urinating. If this is a problem in your garden, then it is important to break this habit. There are a number of deterrents that you can try.

### **Natural Cat Repellents**

Cats dislike the following smells:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee grounds  | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil of lavender    | <input type="checkbox"/> Garlic cloves  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cinnamon  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lemongrass         | <input type="checkbox"/> Citronella oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blood meal fertilizer   | <input type="checkbox"/> Peppermint essence | <input type="checkbox"/> Eucalyptus     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh (chicken) manure and/or liquid manure                           |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red wine vinegar or ordinary vinegar sprayed on areas where they roam |   |   |

### **Plants as Deterrents**

Cats dislike the following plants:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rue – <i>Ruta graveolens</i>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosemary – <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curry plant – <i>Helichrysum augustifolium</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Geranium – <i>Pelargonium</i>            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scaredy cat plant – <i>Plectranthus caninus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Lemon thyme – <i>Thymus citriodorus</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lavender – <i>Lavandula augustifolia</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennyroyal – <i>Mentha pulegium</i>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Verbena - <i>Aloysia citrodora</i>        |   |

### **Simple Deterrent Measures:**

- Do not feed or provide water for stray cats.
- Squirting the cat with a hose is a good deterrent, and a cat that has been 'caught' several times may be reluctant to return. This does not harm the cat and the best results are achieved from squirts to the flank, not the face.
- Making a loud noise to startle the cat is also a useful deterrent. However, it may return later when you are not around.
- Smear the tops of your fence with Vaseline – cats will find it difficult to climb on your fence.
- Install two-inch PVC piping along the top of your fence. Cats can't get a grip on it to climb over the fence.
- Try placing pine cones, dried nut or bean shells, broken egg shells and heavy bark mulch in your garden beds - cats don't like the feel of them on their paws.
- Fill 2 litre soft-drink bottles full of water - this magnifies movement on other side and deters cats.
- Scatter orange or lemon peels in your garden beds or spray with citrus-scented fragrances.

### **Home-made Cat Deterrent Spray**

You can make your own inexpensive cat deterrent spray using the following recipe:

2 cups white vinegar, 1 tablespoon whole cloves, 2 or 3 garlic cloves - peeled and crushed, 2 or 3 hot chillies, 2 or 3 drops of concentrated dish washing liquid, black pepper, water to fill bottle.

Combine all ingredients in an empty two litre bottle, and leave mixture overnight. Fill a spray bottle and spray around the area from which you wish to deter cats. Keep the remaining mixture for later. You don't need to spray much to give the cats the hint. Respray every week or two until they disappear. Be aware that this recipe has a very unpleasant odour, so do not spray in the house or near open windows, and do not spray directly onto the cats.

### **Commercially Available Cat Deterrents**

- Commercial cat repellent sprays and gels are available from hardware stores, plant nurseries or vets.
- Electronic deterrents are also available which emit a high pitched sound to deter animals such as cats, dogs and possums. These are available from hardware stores or on-line.

If you have any queries or require more information in relation to cats, please contact the Ranger Team on (08) 6820 3999 or visit the website at [www.albany.wa.gov.au](http://www.albany.wa.gov.au)

### **Disclaimer:**

*Animal cruelty is an offence and harsh penalties apply under the Animal Welfare Act 2002. The deterrent measures listed here have been collated from a range of sources. The products and advice has not been tested by the City of Albany, and are not endorsed by the City.*