



COMMUNITY CATS

Community cats are those that live outdoors in our community, whether they are feral or friendly, born into the wild or were a house pet at one time.

With your help, we are able to reduce the population size of wandering community cats while making ethical decisions for our community members.

Whether you love or loathe community cats, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the answer to effectively reducing their numbers.

TNR reduces most cat-related nuisances, poses no threat to public health and safety, while keeping rodent control in place. Even so, cats living in communities sometimes causes disputes between neighborhoods. What many people don't realize is that these disputes can be resolved without resorting to legal means or harming the cats. As with most disputes, it is important to look at both sides of the issue.

ANIMAL CARE OF DAVIS COUNTY

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SOLUTIONS TO CAT- RELATED ISSUES

Every situation is different, so keep trying until you find what works for you.



ABOUT TNR

Trap-Neuter-Return is an effective approach for stray and feral cats. Now in practice for decades in the US after being proven in Europe, scientific studies show that TNR improves the lives of feral cats, improves their relationships with the people who live near them, and decreases the size of colonies over time.

TNR is successfully practiced in hundreds of communities and in every landscape and setting. It is exactly what it sounds like: Cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian to be neutered and vaccinated. After recovery, the cats are returned to their home—their colony—outdoors. Kittens and cats who are friendly and socialized to people may be adopted into homes.

TNR provides a humane way to sustain and control the population of community cats which:

- Ends the breeding cycle and stabilizes populations of community cats
- Reduces and eventually eliminates cat colonies over time
- Eliminates or minimizes nuisance behaviors such as roaming, spraying/markings by males, fighting and yowling
- Helps stop the spread of infectious diseases
- Spay/neutered cats are less stressed, healthier, and coexist more peacefully with humans and each other

Read about some ways to deter community cats from your yard in addition to our TNR program.

CAT DETERRENT METHODS

SCRAM FOR CATS

This repellent is highly effective and can be purchased online. It is safe for gardens, kids and pets and is 100% organic. It is one of the **BEST** deterrents.

OFFENSIVE SMELLS

Try sprinkling "stinky" substances in the area, including dried-blood fertilizer or a product called Shake Away. Other smells can include citrus, garlic/onions or vinegar in a spray bottle. You can also use Citronella Candles to emit a smell that cats dislike.

TRY MOTION SENSORS

Motion sensors detect pet movement and release a quick burst of harmless yet effective spray to create a pet-free area outdoors. You can purchase these online.

MULCH OR ROCKS

Use lava rocks, bristly pine cones or stone mulch so that they won't want to walk on the area.

PLANTS

There are plants that give off smells that cats dislike. Coleus Canina (Scaredy Cat Plant) is effective, in addition to Rue and Pennyroyal (which deer also dislike).

OTHER CAT DETERRENT METHODS

POULTRY FENCING OR LANDSCAPE FABRIC

Cats like to dig in areas where it is soft on their paws. The idea is to **make the area not attractive** to them and ultimately prevent the cats from digging where they are not welcome. You can place poultry fencing or landscape fabric in the soil throughout the garden and around the plants. The material can be held down with landscape staples. You can also turn plastic, clear car or office mats upside down in your garden so the spikes stick up. Cats may try to use your flower garden as their litter box but their claws catch on the fencing or they're deterred by the plastic spikes.

CHOPSTICKS, PLASTIC FORKS OR LANDSCAPE STAPLES

Push these items into the ground throughout the garden so a cat can't get good traction on any soft ground.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Plant a bed of catnip plants where you want the cats. They'll be drawn to the catnip instead of your flowerbed. You can also have a sandbox area designed solely for these community cats.

ODO-ELIMINATOR

This concentrate can be mixed with water in a spray bottle and can be used to neutralize the odors. Yard-Odo Killer hooks up to a hose for larger areas.