

Solutions to Cat Related Issues

Whether you love or loathe cats, Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) is the answer. TNR is the only method proven to effectively reduce the numbers of cats. TNR reduces most cat related nuisances, poses no threat to public health and safety, and keeps rodent control in place. Even so, cats living within our communities sometimes cause disputes between neighbors. What many people do not realize, these disputes DO have remedies.



When resolving disputes it is important to look at both sides of the issue.

Cat caregiver side: Most often did not create the problem; rather their compassion prompted them to begin feeding a hungry stray. They have bonded with the cats and value the cat's lives tremendously, even though the cats are often not approachable by humans and would not make good pets. They may not have heard of TNR, and may not realize that ***resources are out there*** to help them get the cats fixed and resolve cat related issues.

Complainant side: The cats are creating a legitimate nuisance, most often these issues are: soiling in gardens, yowling at night, male cats spray causing odors. They may not have heard of TNR, and may not realize that simply removing the cats will not work to solve the problem. They have not bonded with the cats and they value their property tremendously. They may not realize that ***resources are out there*** to help keep cats off their property.

Unfortunately, many times disputes erupt because the situation has hit a "crisis" point. In order to resolve the situation both sides often need to first ***take a step back***. Listen patiently to the other party's side. Instead of interrupting the other party when you disagree with what they say, write down what they said, take it home and formulate a written plan that addresses the other party's concerns. As much as you may value the cat's lives or your property, refrain from insults and anger. There is a way to protect both the cat's lives and the neighbor's property!

Feral cat caregivers can alleviate most nuisance behaviors simply by spaying and neutering. ***Call our hotline 1-866-PETSFIX (738-7349) or visit www.utahpets.org to learn about the No More Homeless Pets Feral Fix program.*** No more smelly male urine, no more late night howling, no more kittens!

NO MORE
HOMELESS
PETS 
I N U T A H

Keep Cats Away- Top Cat Deterrent Products

Most of these products are found on-line. Local lawn & garden stores may carry some repellants

Scarecrow™, motion activated sprinkler: Infrared sensor responds to motion and releases a three second blast of water. Will “fire” 1,000 times on only one 9-volt battery. Protects approx. 90-degree area, 45 feet wide, 35 feet long. ***Voted the most effective animal deterrent available.*** Check on-line or call Contech for your nearest retailer **1-800-767-8658**

CatStop™-ultrasonic deterrent: Uses motion sensor and emits a high pitched, ultrasonic alarm that will frighten most cats and small dogs but that can not be heard by humans. You place the unit facing the area you want to protect and it protects approximately 300 square feet. It requires a 9-volt battery, and can operate up to nine months with one battery. ***Best choice for areas where children may be at play.*** Check on-line or call Contech for nearest retailer **1-800-767-8658**

CatScat™, a non-chemical cat and wildlife repellent: Made of plastic mats that are pressed into the soil. Each mat, complete with flexible plastic spikes, is cut into four pieces. The spikes are harmless but effective. **www.catscat.com**

Shake-away™: Repellent grains mixed with fox/coyote urine. Non-toxic, 20 oz. bottle will cover 600 linear feet. Must re-apply to remain effective. **www.critter-repellent.com**

Other ideas- Concrete pavers, river rocks, large pinecones or large bark cover loose soil, are attractive and deter weeds!

Odor Control

Feral cat caregivers need to provide the cats for which they care an appropriate place to eliminate. Sometimes cat fencing can be utilized to keep cats confined to caregiver’s property. Cat fencing isn’t appropriate in all situations, research fencing options prior to purchase.

-Provide cats with litter boxes (use plastic concrete mixers or child’s sand box for making large litter box areas) and scoop regularly. **ZIX™**, a stable freshener, available at farm retailers makes great inexpensive cat litter and outdoor odor remover. A zeolite product, ZIX neutralizes odor and is completely safe for use around animals. Use in litter boxes or safely sprinkle on ground. To locate a retailer near you call, **1-800-264-5826**.

Yard Odor Killer™, available online at **www.naturvet.com** or by calling **1-888-628-8783** is a non-toxic odor eliminator safe for use on grass, plants, patios, concrete, fences, or any other surface where odors arise due to pets.

For more tips on how to keep neighbors happy and how to properly care for feral cats contact: Amanda Bell, Community Program Coordinator at: (801) 364-0370 X18.