



# Cat Deterrents

## Tips to discourage community cats from making your home their home!

**Cats communicate with scent.** Using smells to control cats can be very effective at keeping them away.

- Citrus scents such as fruit peels, juice, oils, or sprays can deter cats from your yard.
- Spray white vinegar in problem areas.
- Scatter Shake-Away (natural predator scent), cayenne pepper, or coffee grounds in the areas you've seen cats.
- Outdoor odor eliminators can be mixed in spray bottles or attached to garden hoses and sprayed in your flower beds to rid those areas of familiar animal scents that attract cats.
- Use positive reinforcement and plant catnip *away* from the problem areas, which will attract cats to locations outside of your gardens and flower beds.

**Natural deterrents work!** Beautify your garden as well as discourage cats from living there.

- Plant rue, lavender, lemon thyme, pennyroyal, or Coleus caninus (also called "Scaredy Cat Plant") which are known to naturally deter cats.
- To prevent digging, use forks, chopsticks, or small river rocks in the areas you've found holes, or even as a border to your flower beds.
- Lay chicken wire, plastic carpet runners, or cat scat mats in flower beds where you've seen cats. As with weed barriers, openings can be cut in these so plants and flowers can still thrive and be enjoyed around your house.
- Motion sensors that spray water, emit sound, or release short bursts of air can also be placed around your home.



**Any questions or comments?** Contact our Community Cat Officer for more information:

- Officer M. Hansen, Community Cat Officer | [mehansen@co.davis.ut.us](mailto:mehansen@co.davis.ut.us)
- Animal Care of Davis County | 1422 E 600 N | Fruit Heights, UT 84037 | 801-444-2200