



## Feral Cat Series

# How to Keep Cats OUT of Your Yard

We have a variety of neighborhood animals in New Orleans, including cats. Cats can benefit homes by keeping away rodents and insects, but many people do not like cats in their yard. If you want to keep cats out of your yard, there are many humane ways that do not harm them or involve removing them from the neighborhood. Keep in mind that what might work for one cat, might not work for another, so be willing to try more than one solution. And, if you know the cat's owner or caretaker, ask them for advice and assistance in keeping their cats close to home.

- Start by removing items in your yard that may attract cats. Keep covers on your garbage cans, pick up food scraps left over from boils, barbecues and picnics, and spray regularly for pests that may be a food source for feral cats.
- Cats hate the smell of citrus fruits, such as lemons, limes, oranges and grapefruit. Try putting orange and lemon peels out in your garden. In addition to making good fertilizer, they'll repel cats. Or spray the area with citrus-scented sprays.
- Scatter coffee grounds or pipe tobacco in the area. Cats dislike the smell. Do NOT use cocoa bean shells, as these are poisonous to dogs and cats.
- Spray cat repellent (available at pet supply stores) around the edge of your yard and along the top of the fence. Make sure you spray it again every time it rains so the smell will be fresh.
- Try growing rue, a garden herb whose smell is disliked by cats. You may also be able to buy it dried in health food stores.
- Push disposable wooden chopsticks or 10-inch plant stakes into flower beds every eight inches. It prevents problem animals from digging in your garden and disturbing the plants.
- Soak strips of old towels or rags with perfume or cologne and hang them near target plants.
- A company called Contech sells a number of products meant to safely repel animals, including a motion-activated sprinkler system that sprays animals in your yard, and other items. These are not expensive and are available from [www.contech-inc.com](http://www.contech-inc.com) or at local pet and garden centers.

**Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**, 1700 Mardi Gras Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70114. Call 504-368-5191 or visit our website at [www.la-sPCA.org](http://www.la-sPCA.org)

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