



3524 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40218

(502) 634-8777
contactus@alleycatadvocates.org

Humane Deterrents

Motion-activated sprinklers: Motion-activated sprinklers have an infrared sensor that releases a short blast of water. The sprinklers can “fire” up to 1,000 times on one nine-volt battery and typically cover an area 35 by 45 feet. These devices can be purchased through online retailers.



Ultrasonic deterrents: This type of deterrent uses a motion sensor and emits a high-pitched, ultrasonic alarm that can't be heard by humans but will frighten most cats and (in some cases) small dogs. You place the unit facing the area you want to protect. Some versions use nine-volt batteries, while others are solar-powered. These devices also can be purchased through online retailers.

Scat mats: These harmless mats or carpet runners are made of flexible plastic spikes. Place on the ground with spike side up to discourage cats from digging.

Other digging deterrents: Push chopsticks into small potted plants. Use pinecones, lava rocks, concrete pavers or stones as mulch to prevent cats from digging. Place large river rocks throughout the garden or use poultry fencing or landscape wrap around plants.

Smells that repel cats: To keep cats out of yards or gardens, plant the herb rue or sprinkle dried rue. Citrus or lemon scents, garlic, ammonia, vinegar, coffee grinds, pipe tobacco, mustard, citronella, or eucalyptus all deter cats as well. The scents diminish over time, so re-applying is necessary.

Neutralizing urine smell: OdoBan, Nature's Miracle, Fizzion and Simple Solution are effective natural enzyme products that are available at pet supply stores or online.

Blocking off access: Cats seek out dry, warm shelter away from the elements. Block off access to the places in which you don't want cats (making sure no cats are inside before doing so). To guide cats away from those areas, provide another shelter. There are many inexpensive options for community cat shelters.

For additional support, view the video, *How to keep cats off my yard and out of my garden*, at the link below, created by the national organization, Best Friends Animal Society:

<https://youtu.be/vMywPSBD7CQ>

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Find more information about caring for your community cat at alleycatadvocates.org

Alley Cat Advocates is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. EIN: 61-1343210. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.