



Nuisance Cats

The problem:

Uninvited cats on your property can be frustrating and a source of tension between neighbours. You may have experienced cats spraying, defecating, fighting, hunting or intimidating other pets on your property.

The solution:

If you know the owner of the cat, try talking to them without being confrontational. Often the owner of the cat is unaware of the frustration their cat may be causing neighbours and sometimes all it takes is a friendly conversation with your neighbour to resolve the problem.

Educate

A flyer can be used to politely let your neighbour know their cat is causing problems. You can visit www.tassiecat.com and download a printable 'Neighbour Letter' template. This can be filled out and distributed to neighbours in your street.

If the owners still fail to keep their cat out of your garden, there are a wide variety of cat-proofing options you could try. Always consider the cat's welfare when undertaking any measures to exclude a cat from your yard.

You can visit www.tassiecat.com and download a printable 'Neighbour Letter' template.

Find helpful tips on cat-proofing your yard on the next page ►

Cat-proofing your yard:



Below is a list of options which have been suggested as a way of keeping cats out of your garden.

Water:

Cats dislike it, so keep a water pistol handy and spray any time you see them in your yard. A gentle spray with the hose also works well. When using the water, consider the welfare implications regarding the cat, be careful NOT to frighten the cat into falling and injuring themselves or into running onto the road and causing an accident.

- ▶ Place a sprinkler in the area you don't want them to go (cats dislike wet ground). You could try putting the sprinkler on a timer or using a motion activated 'scarecrow sprinkler' that is set up to trigger when it detects an animal. Move the sprinklers around regularly so the cats can't learn to avoid them.
- ▶ Scarecrow Motion Activated Sprinklers: The "Scarecrow" senses animals the same way security lights detect people; movement and heat. When an animal is seen a valve opens instantly releasing a three-second pulsating spray of water. The combination of the sudden noise, movement, and water frightens animals away.

Commercially available products: (often available in hardware shops or online)

- ▶ CATWatch is an ultrasonic deterrent. Ultrasonic deterrents train persistent feline visitors to stay out of your garden. CATWatch has an ultrasonic alarm which is triggered by the cat's movement and body heat as they enter the protected area. As soon as the cat leaves the protected area the alarm stops and therefore the cat soon learns that to prevent the ultrasonic alarm the area must be avoided.
- ▶ SSSCAT - an aerosol can which sprays a harmless gas and releases a hissing sound when motion is detected.

NOTE: the scarecrow sprinkler, CATWatch and SSSCAT may also scare away native wildlife that might be visiting your garden, as well as any other pets in the yard.

Physical cat-proofing options:

- ▶ Try running a taut string across the top of your fence as a barrier – cats won't like trying to climb over it.
- ▶ Install two inch PVC piping along the top of your fence. Cats can't get a grip on it to climb over the fence.

Cat-proofing scent options:

Apply scents around your property that cats don't like. Be sure to renew whatever scented material you use every few days so it smells strong enough to keep the cats away. Essences should be sprayed on the garden but never on the cat. Examples include:

- ▶ Lavender (planted or essence oil)
- ▶ Citronella oil
- ▶ Peppermint essence
- ▶ Lemon thyme

Cat-proofing garden options:

Plant cat-proofing plants as a border in your yard. These are generally herbs that have a scent or texture cats don't like. If you have a cat, these plants will also form boundaries to your yard that will help keep your cat in. These plants will not harm the cat, instead they have a scent or feel that the cat will not like. Some of these plants are listed below:

- ▶ Lemon thyme
- ▶ Pennyroyal
- ▶ *Coleus canina* or 'Scaredy cat'
- ▶ Lavender

DISCLAIMER: Animal cruelty is an offence and harsh penalties apply. The cat-proofing options listed here are widely recommended, however, not all have been rigorously tested and their effectiveness cannot be guaranteed. Get professional advice from your local vet clinic or pet store.

For more information visit: www.tassiecat.com

Thanks to Kingborough Council for their great information on keeping cats happy at home.

