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Use of Deterrents: Approaches to keeping cats off your property

What are deterrents?

Deterrents are used to make unwanted cats or other animals uncomfortable being in a certain area, such as your yard. They can be simple and quite effective while not posing any physical danger to the animals.

Examples of deterrents

- Water deterrents – Using sensors, these deterrents begin spraying the area when an animal is indicated in the area. They are like a smart sprinkler. They do not harm the animals but will drive them away from the area.

Generally speaking, most cats not only do not like water, they have an aversion to getting wet. This is where a scarecrow may be useful. This scarecrow is not made of straw but rather it is a motion-activated sprinkler device that is attached to a regular garden hose. When a cat passes by, it sends a burst of water in the direction of the animal. Typically, cats and other animals will bolt in the other direction.

Caution needs to be exercised in the placement of this device as you do not want to accidentally spray passersby on the sidewalk, neighbors, etc.

- Sonic deterrents - also motion activated, that emits a high frequency noise that cats do not like. This helps deter cats and other animals from areas you want to protect, like the top of your car. These devices operate on batteries but some have solar panels that will recharge them.
- Digging deterrents come in a variety of inexpensive and easy to use forms ranging from pine cones to lava rocks to stone pavers. Rubber matting that has hard rubber spikes can also be used in garden areas.

This is only intended to be a partial list of options. Many more can be found online. Please be advised that any deterrent used must be humane and cannot cause harm to any animal.

Where to get deterrents

Most online stores such as Amazon, Chewy, PetSmart and Pet Supermarket as well as many others retailers have cat deterrents available. Search “cat deterrents” using the search engine on the store’s website.