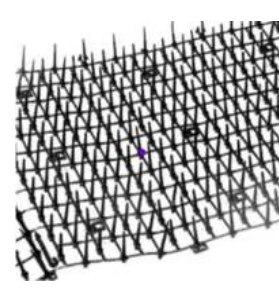


Keeping Cats Out Of Areas In Your Yard & House

There are three general categories of deterrents:

- 1) Sprays and Sprinkles (odor)
- 2) Semi-Permanent (texture)
- 3) Electronic (sound/water)

Most of these deterrents are for outdoor use, but there are some that can also be used inside.



Deterrents We Recommend:

- **Outdoor Use:** Scat mats/carpet runner, Electronic ultrasound/sprinkler systems, Large rocks/bark.
- **Indoor Use:** Electronic scat-mat, Compressed air spray, Double-sided tape.

General Information:

Before applying the deterrent, do this first (if you can):

- Pickup all waste and
- Treat spots with odor control agents such as *Nature's Miracle*, *Petzyme*, *Simple Solution*, *Anti Icky Poo*, "Home-Made", etc.

This will remove some of the "attractants" that entice the cats to visit the area.

Also, if there are any known feeding stations close by, ask if the caregivers can move them farther away.

"Home Made" Odor Remover

1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide
1/4 cup baking soda
1 teaspoon of liquid soap

Gently mix all ingredients in a non-metal container. Do not mix or shake vigorously! Do not keep in an airtight container.

Note that porous surfaces may swell (drywall, wood flooring, etc.). Always test for color-fastness: apply to a small area and wait 24-48 hours. Hydrogen peroxide is a bleaching agent in stronger concentrations and can lighten materials that are not color-fast.

Note that the effectiveness of any deterrent is heavily dependent on the location / area to be covered, weather and environmental conditions, and the cats themselves. There is no one-size-fits-all solution, so be prepared to try different things, and in combination. At the same time try not to get discouraged if things don't seem to be working; most people are eventually able to achieve a reasonable level of success.

Spray and Sprinkle Types:

Sprays and sprinkles are generally intended to make an area "smell bad" to the cat, so that he avoids it. In our experience, sprays/sprinkles are not as effective as some of the other deterrent types. But given that each cat and situation is unique, and they are easy to apply and have virtually no negative aspects to them, they can be worth a try.

- **Citrus:** Scatter fresh orange and lemon peels around, and/or spray with citrus-scented fragrances.
- **Pungent:** Coffee grounds, pipe tobacco, or oil of lavender, lemongrass, citronella, bitter apple, and eucalyptus can also deter some cats.
- **Aromatic Spray:** Such as Dog and Cat Repellent, available at www.gardeners.com
- **Liquid cat repellent:** Apply liberally around the edges of the yard, the tops of fences, and on any favorite digging areas or plants. Available at pet supply stores and at www.gardeners.com
- **Cayenne pepper:** buy cheap at grocery store, sprinkle on or mix into top layer of soil
- **Critter Ridder:** Some people are not fans of this, as it smells strong when kept in the garage and there is concern about the safety for animals. We do not have further information on this aspect, one should read the label and call the manufacturer with any questions/concerns. This product is made by Havahart, which is typically known to produce humane products.



Other sprays, both organic and conventional, are available at pet stores.

- **Liquid Predator:** Animal urine. Although we don't advocate this based on the thought that the process of gathering the predator urine is inhumane. Read about at www.predatorpee.com
- **Shake Away:** Coyote/fox urine granules.

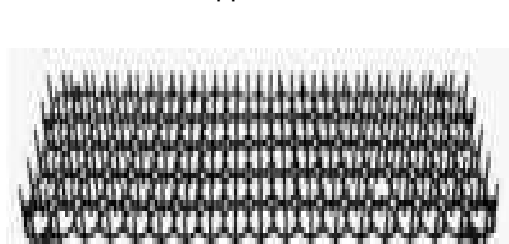
- **Flea Halt / Nematodes:** while this application doesn't deter cats, it does help to prevent fleas. It uses nematodes (microscopic worm-like animals) that are natural and safe to add to your yard, and that then seek out and consume the fleas in almost all of their life cycle stages. This can help keep fleas away, which are more commonly found in areas with a lot of squirrels. Nematodes can be purchased on line or in many garden/home improvement stores.

Tip: when you purchase nematodes, make sure they are FRESH as possible, and that there is no strong "fishy" odor coming from the package. In this regard ordering online with fast delivery is often a far superior method to buying them in a store, since it will result in a much higher percentages of the nematodes being alive and ready to go to work.

Semi-Permanent Types:

Semi-Permanent deterrents are designed to change the "texture" of the surface the cat is trying to walk on so that it becomes uncomfortable, or difficult, or to otherwise block the cat's passage. Most are very effective and are applicable for limited and specific areas.

- **Plastic spike mats:** Also known as "Scat Mats", these are a non-chemical cat and wildlife repellent consisting of plastic mats or rolls that are cut to size as needed, and then either secured to the top of a fence, or pressed into the soil. Each mat has blunt flexible plastic spikes that are harmless to cats and other animals, but discourage digging or walking across it.



Pros: can be very effective, easily hidden, and the spikes are easily camouflaged in rose gardens, etc.

Cons: can't use in "traffic" areas since spikes disallow other pets or people to walk there. Available online, and at select home improvement and garden stores.

- **Clear plastic carpet runner:** Carpet runner is similar to car mats, in that it has a number of "fingers" or "spikes" on one side intended to keep it in place when placed on another piece of carpet.

To use as a deterrent, place "spike-side" up:

- Fence top - cut into strips the same width as the top of the fence and stapled/nailed down (top should be at least 3" wide for best results).
- Ground surface area - cover lightly in soil, and stake down as necessary.
- Roofs, patios, counter tops, and other surfaces – place on the surface, if necessary use bricks, rocks, etc. to hold down.



Carpet runner is usually sold in rolls, and can be found online and at local hardware, home improvement or office supply stores.

- **Chicken wire:** Prevents digging by cats and other animals. Press firmly into the dirt with the sharp edges rolled under. Secure with stakes, bricks, etc.

- **Rubber mulch:** Recycled shredded rubber tires keep cats out of gardens or other areas. Available at most home improvement and some garden stores.

- **Rocks/Bark:** Cover exposed ground in flower beds with (1) large, attractive river rocks to prevent cats from digging or (2) large bark. Both are difficult for cats to walk on or dig in, and have the added benefit of deterring weeds.



- **Black plastic netting:** Often marketed to keep birds out of fruit trees. This works well when placed/draped on top of plants and sometimes also as a boarder around plants or garden space (depends on configuration and how determined the cats are). Available online, and at most home improvement and some garden stores.

- **Herbs/Plants:** "rue" or marigolds, Coleus Canina, lavender, geranium, petunias to repel cats. You can also sprinkle dried rue over the garden.

- **Branches/lattice:** Artfully arrange branches in a lattice-type pattern or wooden or plastic lattice fencing material over soil. You can disguise these by planting flowers and seeds in the openings. You can also try embedding wooden chopsticks, pine cones, or sticks with dull points deep into the soil with the tops exposed eight inches apart.

- **Aluminum foil:** Crumple up sheets of aluminum foil and place where you don't want the cat to go, or try on the perimeter. Pro: pretty effective. Con: eye sore (but oftentimes it can be used for a month or two to train animals to stay out, and once removed they often don't return).

- **Electronic Scat-mat:** This is a plastic/vinyl mat with a series of wire running through it in a geometric pattern. The mat is then connected to a battery or other low-voltage power source. When the cat steps on the mat, either a sudden loud tone is emitted, or a small shock is administered to the cat's paw. In the case of the shock, is not enough to be painful, but will startle the cat and deter him from coming near the mat again.

- **Double-sided tape:** Stick this on furniture, beds, car covers, etc. to prevent scratching. Most cats do not like the feel of having their paws "stuck" to the tape. It is recommended to refresh the tape as necessary, and also to put a scratching post or similar item near the location, if possible, to give the cat an "approved" alternative.

- **Add A Litter Box/Area:** Establish a litter box by tilling the soil or placing sand in an out-of-the-way spot in your yard. You can use new potting soil or cat attract herbal mix, or a combination. Keep litter box clean and free of deposits. Yes, the cats are still going in your yard, but at least they are going in a known and limited location.

Electronic Deterrent Types:

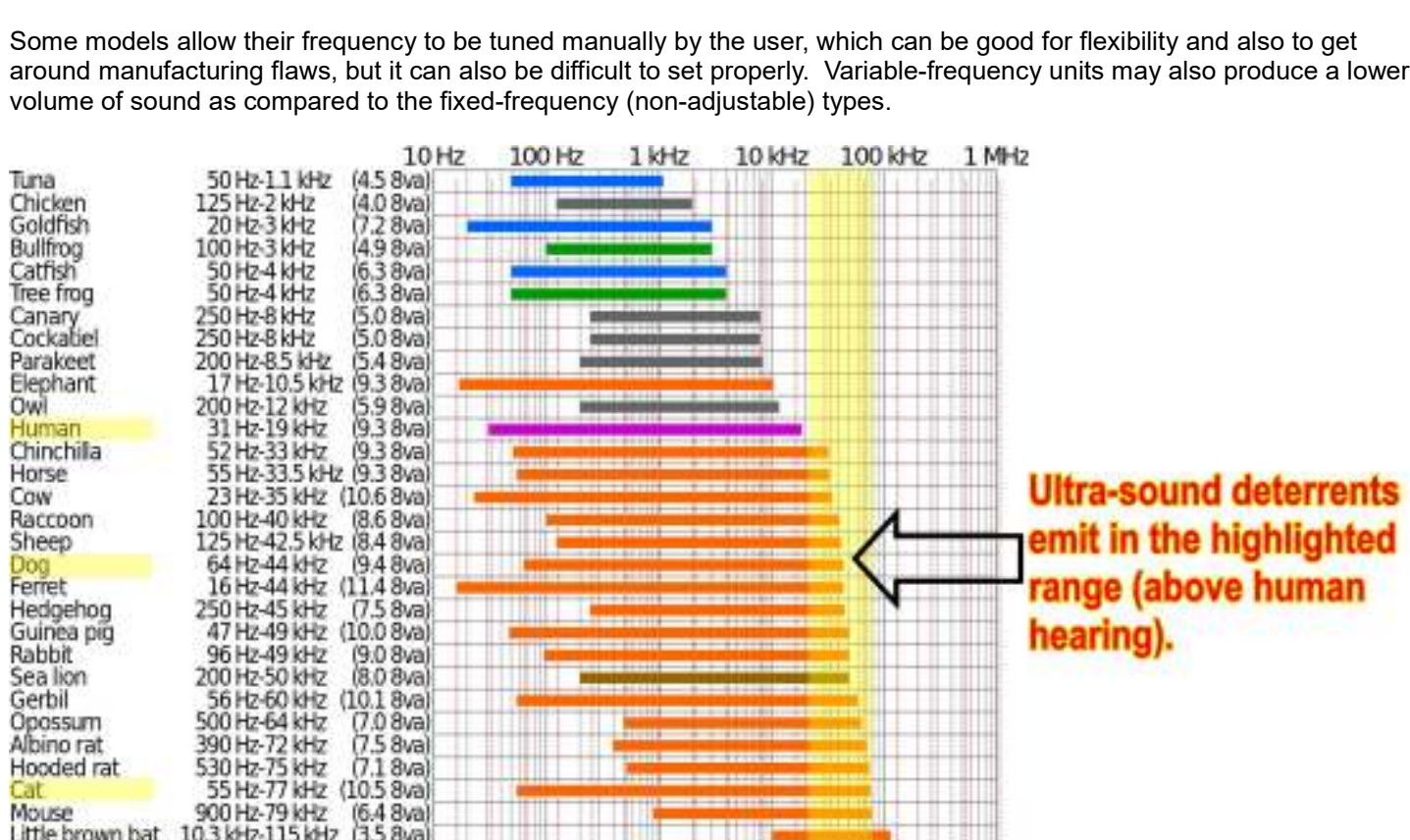
These devices use a sensor that detects a moving heat source to activate the unit. On activating, they create a disturbance which surprises or disturbs the cats, and induces them to leave the area. The disturbances are generally one of three types: ultrasonic sound, water, and/or compressed air.

Most units are set to activate for a few seconds, then automatically turn off and reset – they will not activate again until a few minutes has passed. This keeps the cats from getting used to the disturbance.

These units are readily available online, and in some garden and home improvement stores.

- **Ultrasonic:** These units are very easy to use, adaptable for circumstances and mounting, and work well in many outdoor situations. The frequency of the generated sound is set to the hearing range of cats, but outside the hearing range of people, dogs, birds, etc. So the cats can hear it, but it has little or no effect on humans or any other animal.

Some models allow their frequency to be tuned manually by the user, which can be good for flexibility and also to get around manufacturing flaws, but it can also be difficult to set properly. Variable-frequency units may also produce a lower volume of sound as compared to the fixed-frequency (non-adjustable) types.



There are also indoor versions of these units, though note that some emit a tone that is audible to people.

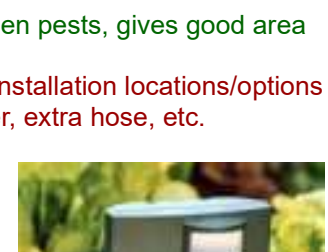
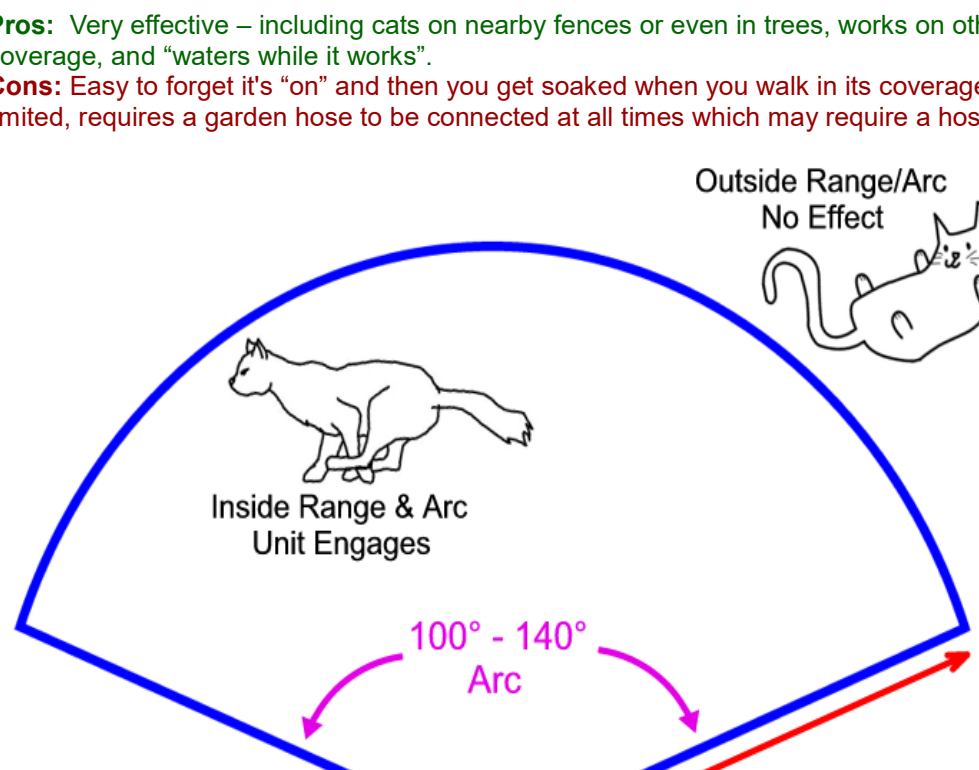
Pros: Easy to use and install, flexible mounting (yards, fences, trees – almost anywhere), and multiple power sources (battery, solar, and/or direct wired), works on most cats.

Cons: Will not work well with older/deaf cats that may be hard of hearing (though these cats may run instinctively if they see other cats take off). Manufacturing quality control may be an issue, sometimes not as weather-proof as claimed.

- **Water/Sprinkler:** These devices are essentially pulse lawn sprinklers (like you see on golf courses), that connect to your garden hose, and are extremely effective. When the sensor activates, a valve opens, and water flows to the sprinkler for a few seconds and then shuts off. Even if a cat is not sprayed directly with water, the sudden noise and at least some amount of light over-spray will startle the cat and send them scurrying.

Pros: Very effective – including cats on nearby fences or even in trees, works on other garden pests, gives good area coverage, and "waters" while it works".

Cons: Easy to forget it's "on" and then you get soaked when you walk in its coverage area, installation locations/options limited, requires a garden hose to be connected at all times which may require a hose-splitter, extra hose, etc.



Ultrasonic/Sprinkler Deterrent Overhead View: Approximate coverage. Any motion inside the blue arc triggers the unit.

- **Compressed Air:** These devices discharge a stream of compressed air to create a sudden, loud, explosion of air and with very a disturbing noise. The unit connects to a standard compressed air canister (like those used as "computer dusters").

The "effective range" of these devices is less than the other types (maybe 10 feet or so), but within that range they are very effective.

Compressed air units are also perfect for use indoors to keep cats away from counter tops, corners, etc.

Pros: Very effective inside their range, may also works on some other garden pests. Easy to set up, very flexible as to placement orientation. Great for indoor use.

Cons: Requires purchase of a compressed air canister, can not be placed in direct sunlight, easy to forget it's "on", some units are not weather resistant and can not be placed outdoors.

