

STRAY AND FERAL CATS

With cats, as is the case for dogs, the City of Chandler adheres to those animal control laws adopted by Maricopa County. There are no leash or license laws for cats and no agency picks up stray or feral cats. This means the City doesn't have as many options to control them as they do other animals.

This does not mean cat owners cannot be held civilly liable for damages caused by their cats, but this would be a civil matter. If you are experiencing problems with cats roaming on your property, the City recommends talking to the pet owner first in order to resolve the problem with minimal conflict.

If speaking with the pet owner does not resolve the situation, there are several deterrents you can try to discourage cats from entering your yard. (see back)

NOTE: Attempts to deal with roaming cats by catching and euthanizing them have proven ineffective, according to Maricopa Animal Care & Control. If feral cats are simply removed from an area, others will take their place and the problem repeats itself.

The Humane Society states that citizens may use recognized, humane traps, baited with plenty of food and water and located in a shaded area, to trap roaming cats. Trapped cats can be taken to the Maricopa County Animal Care and Control shelter at 2630 W. 8th Street in Mesa, or the Arizona Humane Society located at 13th Avenue and Hatcher in Phoenix. Fees determined by the shelter are typically involved.

There are animal welfare groups that sponsor programs to help control the population of feral cats. The cats are sterilized so they won't reproduce, then they continue living outdoors. These groups are well versed on where to get traps, how to use them, where to take the cats for sterilization, and what to do afterwards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control:
(602) 506-7387 or visit www.maricopa.gov/pets

Arizona Humane Society: (602) 997-7585 or visit
www.azhumane.org

Animal Defense League of Arizona: (602) 273-7842
or visit www.adlaz.org.

Spay Neuter Hotline: (866) 952-SPAY (7729) or e-mail
feralcats@adlaz.org

Altered Tails: (602) 943-SPAY (7729) or visit
www.alteredtails.org.

Alley Cat Allies: www.Alleycat.org.

CAT DETERRENTS

If you have stray cats entering your yard, there are several things residents can try that may keep cats away from your property

- Spray concentrated orange juice or hang orange or lemon peels in areas where cats are spraying. They are put off by the citrus scent.
- Similarly, some people advocate coffee grounds, blood meal, cayenne pepper, lavender oil, lemon grass oil, peppermint oil, eucalyptus oil or citronella oil (don't use citronella-scented lamp oil or torch oil, as these are flammable).
- Get a motion-detecting device that turns on a sprinkler or bright light in response to motion in your yard or garden.
- Squirt a hose at the cat whenever they come by or squat. You just want to shock the cat, not knock the cat over. Some people think a squirt gun works best.
- There are many commercial cat repellants available in garden stores, pet shops and online. Read the directions carefully, and be sure to wear gloves for chemical sprays.
- There are some non-chemical repellants that emit an ultrasonic electric pulse that many cats find annoying.

Cruelty to animals is a serious offense and violators will be prosecuted. To report animal abuse, call the Arizona Humane Society at (602) 997-7585


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