



# Cat Deterrents

Edmonton

In Edmonton, all domestic cats are required to hold a valid City of Edmonton cat licence, but are allowed to roam on public property (Animal Licensing & Control Bylaw, Bylaw 13145). However, cats can have a difficult time determining where public property ends and private property begins. The City wants to ensure that pets are a positive addition to the community and help Edmontonians deter nuisance cats from their private property by introducing a Cat Deterrent kit program. This program will allow Edmontonians the opportunity to borrow a kit of several training tools to help cats understand the boundaries of their territory. By creating an environment that is unfavourable to cats, they may learn to avoid those areas in favour of more desirable terrain.

## What's Included?

The cat deterrent kits will include one of the motion-activated deterrents and all of the digging or scent based deterrents. In making use of these products, please ensure that the directions on the manufacturers' labels are followed.

### **Motion-Activated Deterrents:**

*Bird-X Yard Gard:* Ultrasonic motion activated device that, when activated, will emit a high frequency alarm that is imperceptible to people but annoying to cats. Place this device near entry points to the property or near problem areas.

*Aspectek Yard Sentinel:* Sonic and ultrasonic motion activated device that can be set to emit either a high frequency alarm that is annoying to cats; or sonic predator sounds which are audible to cats and humans. Place this device near entry points to the property or near problem areas.

*Contech ScareCrow:* Motion activated sprinkler that instantly releases a short startling burst of water when it detects any motion in a yard. This device requires a water supply.

### **Digging Deterrents:**

*Cat Scat Mat:* Cats will not usually enter an area where they cannot walk and dig comfortably. These mats have plastic spikes to discourage cats from digging. They can be placed in garden areas or flower beds, near items to be protected such as flower pots, at the base of trees or shrubs, along a fence line to keep cats from entering a yard, or anywhere that cats are known to frequent.

*Plastic Chicken Wire:* This product can be placed on top of the soil or under a thin layer of soil or mulch in flowerbeds, gardens, or pots to deter cats from digging. Cats do not like the feeling of the wire on their paws and if they begin digging in areas where it is concealed, they may become irritated and move on to another location.



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## **Scent Deterrents:**

*Get Off My Garden!:* This product is made up of suspended water crystals that slowly release a strong perfumed odour which is intended to confuse a cat's sense of smell. Use this product sparingly and apply to the edges of the area where the cats are known to frequent.

*Natural Scent Deterrents:* Cats have a very strong sense of smell and can be sensitive to many strongly scented citrus-based or spicy smells that are pleasant to humans including citronella, lavender, or cinnamon. There are seven natural-scent recipes included in the kit.

## **Other Alternatives**

Although the City can only offer a few items in each kit, there are many alternatives on the market that may help to deter cats and other nuisance pests from entering onto private property. The City encourages citizens to take the time to research the methods that may work for them.

**Digging Deterrent Alternatives:** Using large or rough surfaced rocks to cover exposed ground or placing rocks into plant pots may prevent cats from digging. Prior to planting in the garden or flowerbed, lay a lattice on the ground and plant inside the openings. Use upright chopsticks to surround plants in pots or boxes so the cats cannot jump into them. Use mulch in your garden or flowerbed. Cats tend not to like rough textures on their paws, so making the area uncomfortable for them will help to keep them away.

**Scent Deterrent Alternatives:** There are plants that are natural deterrents for cats as they can emit odours that cat dislike:

- Coleus Canina, also known as the Scaredy-Cat plant
- Helichrysum Italicum, also known as the Curry herb plant
- Lemon Balm plant
- Rosemary
- Lavender

Planting these plants along the borders of a garden or flowerbed may stop cats from entering the area and causing damage. Property owners may also choose to plant prickly bushes to keep cats out of flowerbeds and gardens.

Property owners may need to use multiple items and strategies in various areas to determine what will be most effective for their property.

The City of Edmonton does not warrant the fitness or effectiveness of any of these products or strategies for the purpose of deterring cats. If you have any questions about any of the products found in the Cat Deterrent Kits, please visit [edmonton.ca/pets](http://edmonton.ca/pets) or call **311**.