5 Easy Steps to Humanely Deterring Cats

1. Talk to your neighbors. Determine whether the cat is a pet, stray, or feral. If it has not been spayed/neutered, get it done.
2. Apply nontoxic deterrents around your yard.
3. Put a tight lid on your trash can.
4. Block gaps in the foundation of all sheds and outbuildings.
5. Use a car cover.

What is TNVR?

TNVR stands for Trap - Neuter - Vaccinate - Return, and this is a proven humane and effective way to control community cat populations.

The cats are trapped in a kind and gentle fashion, and taken to a veterinary clinic for spay/neuter and vaccination. Cats and kittens who are socialized and not afraid of humans can be placed in loving homes, and the others are returned to where they were trapped. Many cat colonies have volunteer caregivers who look after the cats and feed them.

With this system, no new kittens are born.

The cats’ quality of life and health improve, and the population no longer increases. With time, the number of cats will decrease and the sterilization means less ruckus and fighting.

TNVR gives better results than catching and killing or relocating cats - once a cat population is suddenly removed, other cats will move in. When that happens, the new cats will breed and form a new colony.

The alternative to TNVR is to catch and euthanize the cats. This method is cruel, costly, and ineffective.
Perceived Problems and Solutions

Cats are getting into my trash
Hungry cats scavenge for food. Quick solutions include:

● Place a tight lid on your trash can. This will help keep wildlife away as well.
● Checking with the neighbors to see if someone is feeding the cats. If they are, talk to them about doing so on a regular schedule.
● Feeding the cats, at a set time, in daylight, and in an out-of-the-way place. Feeding the cats will ensure they’re not hungry enough to rummage through trash.

Cats lounge in my yard and on my porch
Cats are territorial and will remain close to “home.” Quick solutions include:

● Applying cat repellant fragrances around the edges of yards, tops of fences, and on any areas the cats seem to favor.
● Installing an ultrasonic animal repellant or a motion activated water sprinkler.

Cats are digging in my yard
Cats like to dig, it’s a natural instinct. Quick solutions include:

● Scattering fresh orange and lemon peels. You can also scatter coffee grounds, vinegar, lavender oil, or eucalyptus.
● Covering exposed ground in flower beds with large river rocks. This looks great, deters weeds, and prevents cats and other animals from digging.
● Placing plastic or wooden lattice over the soil. You can disguise the lattice by planting flowers in the openings.

Cats sleep under my porch or in my shed
The cats are looking for a dry, warm shelter that will provide some protection.

Feeding the cats has attracted insects and other wildlife
Leaving food out will attract other animals.

● Keep the feeding area neat and free of trash and leftovers.
● Feed the cats at the same time every day, during daylight hours. Give them enough to finish in one sitting, and remove any leftovers after 30 minutes.

Cats are yowling, fighting, spraying, roaming, and having kittens
These behaviors are related to mating and will continue until the cats are spayed or neutered.

● Trap-Neuter-Return stops mating behaviors. Neutered males no longer have the need to fight, spray, and roam. Spayed females stop yowling and having kittens. All these behaviors usually stop within three weeks.
● You can get the smell of urine under control with white vinegar, or products that use enzymes to combat the smell.