

WHAT ABOUT STRAY CATS?

A study by the Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association shows that cats were 13 times more likely to return home by non-shelter means (return on their own, found by neighbor) than when brought to the shelter.

The time elapsed before an owner begins to look for a lost cat at the shelter usually exceeds the stray holding period (4 days, not counting the day they came in or holidays), meaning the cat may be transferred, adopted or euthanized before the owner ever visits the shelter.

If you see friendly cats in your yard, it's best to leave them alone as they may actually belong to someone in the neighborhood. Do not feed them or else they will not go home. Remember, a cat's owner is more likely to find their cat if the cat is not brought to the shelter.

The Vacuum Effect

Animal control's traditional approach to feral cats - catch and remove - won't keep an area free of cats for long.

Once the cats are removed from a territory, other cats move in to take advantage of the newly available resources and breed, forming a new colony. Catch and remove is an endless and costly cycle. Known as the vacuum effect, this is a documented phenomenon in a variety of animals throughout the world.

LOCAL RESOURCES

Cat House on the Kings
(559) 638-8696

Feral Paws Rescue Group
(559) 412-7226

Animal Compassion Team
(559) 299-6364

Modern Wildlife Solutions
(559) 321-4257

Wildlife Control Technologies
(559) 490-2262

**For more information
and easy solutions to
unwanted cat behavior**

Alley Cat Allies
www.alleycat.org

CLOVIS
ANIMAL SERVICES

908 Villa Avenue, Clovis, CA 93612
Open Tuesday - Saturday, 1 PM - 5 PM
ClovisAnimalServices@CityofClovis.com
P. (559) 324-2450



FERAL & STRAY CATS



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

As of December 2013, City of Clovis Animal Services does not accept feral/stray cats.

Feral cats should not be relocated outside their natural range (200 feet or 2/3rds of a city block) and trapping and relocating a cat is considered abandonment. Please keep in mind that a cat that seems feral might be someone's pet, and as such is their personal property. There are no leash laws for cats, and cats are permitted to roam freely.

CALIFORNIA LAWS

Penal Code section 597(s);

Willful abandonment of an animal is prohibited.

Penal Code section 597;

It is illegal to intentionally kill an animal.

Penal Code section 596;

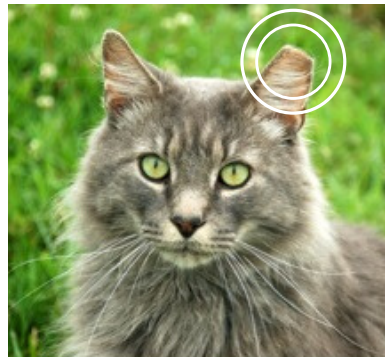
Poisoning of animals is specifically prohibited.

CATS IN YOUR YARD

Feral cats are highly adaptable and have coexisted with humans for thousands of years, avoiding people but living in close proximity to them. While you might not mind the cats in the neighborhood, you may not like some of the things they do in your yard.

Like any wild animal, most stray and feral cats live where they find food and shelter, making the control of food sources and shelter and the use of humane deterrents effective in keeping cats from being a nuisance. You may have to experiment with a variety of solutions to find the combination that works best for your situation.

Start out by talking to your neighbors to determine whether the cats you are seeing are owned, stray or feral, if they are spayed or neutered, and if there are people in the neighborhood feeding them. Often working with your neighbors can be more effective than trying to find solutions on your own.



THE LEFT EAR TIP

identifies a community cat that has been fixed and vaccinated.

CATS DIGGING IN YOUR GARDEN

It is a cat's natural instinct to dig and deposit in soft or loose soil, moss, mulch, or sand.

Quick Solutions:

- **Spread deterrents** such as citrus peels, coffee grounds, vinegar, or pipe tobacco, plant or scatter the herb rue, or use oils of citrus, lavender, lemongrass, citronella, or eucalyptus
- **Use plastic carpet runner** spike-side up, covered lightly in soil (found in local hardware or office supply stores) or set chicken wire firmly into the dirt with sharp edges rolled under
- **Use wooden or plastic lattice fencing** over soil or arrange branches in a lattice pattern – you can disguise these by planting flowers and seeds in the openings
- **Obtain Cat Scat**, a non-chemical repellent consisting of plastic mats cut into small pieces and pressed into soil – available at www.gardeners.com
- **Cover exposed ground** in flower beds with large river rocks to prevent cats from digging – they have the added benefit of deterring weeds

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