

To live in society, we exercise a certain degree of tolerance towards minor annoyances, such as the noise of trucks or lawnmowers. In the same vein, it is usually considered acceptable that cats, which do not cause significant inconvenience, circulate on the grounds of the neighborhood. Also, if you are wondering what to do when a cat damages your property or makes you uncomfortable, you will find suggestions in this leaflet.

WHAT IS A nuisance?

If a cat damages your property and you know its guardian, inform him of the situation and try to discuss the problem diplomatically. In general, he will take the necessary means to correct the situation. Suggest him to obtain the leaflet published by the SPA for owners whose cat go outside. It is his responsibility to ensure that his animal does not cause excessive nuisance in the neighborhood.

HOW TO DETERMINE who you are dealing with?

Generally speaking, the by-law currently in force in Sherbrooke mentions that there is a nuisance when a cat causes damages to the property of others or harms the comfort of the neighborhood. Consequently, the fact that a cat finds itself free to roam outside its guardian's property **does not constitute** a nuisance within the meaning of the municipal by-law.

If the animal has a MEDALLION

If you don't know who is the animal's guardian, but it wears a medallion, write down the number that appears on it and contact the SPA.



Otherwise...

If your unexpected guest **is not wearing a medallion**, but seems socialized and in good health, he probably lives with one of your neighbors. In this case, it is best to go around the neighborhood in order to identify the owner and inform him of the situation. If your search is unsuccessful, notify the SPA.

Finally, if the animal seems **hungry, injured, sick or wild in your presence**, it is probably a lost or abandoned animal. Such animals are often confused and frightened, in addition to being susceptible to reproduction and thus placing their offspring in the same undesirable situation. Under these conditions, the best option is to entrust the animal to the SPA; you will thus avoid long months of a difficult existence and may even help it find a new family.

And if NOTHING works?

As a last resort, if your efforts are in vain and the cat persists causing nuisances that you cannot tolerate, the use of a trapdoor may be an option to consider. About that, it should be noted that municipal by-laws and the Criminal Code stipulate that it is **PROHIBITED to use poison or a trap** for capturing animals. **Only the use of trapdoors is allowed.**

Although not a universal option, the trap-door can sometimes be useful in solving some particularly difficult solutions. Nevertheless, if no other action is taken to keep the cats away before opting for a trapdoor cage, it is most likely that other cats in the neighborhood who will visit your property will adopt the same disturbing habits in the near future. **You can rent a trapcage at the SPA** or from a pest control professional.

IS AS CAT BOTHERING YOU?



Société
protectrice
des animaux
DE L'ESTRIE

819 821-4727

spaestrie.qc.ca

145, rue Sauvé, Sherbrooke (QC) J1L 1L6



SPA
DE L'ESTRIE

HOW TO KEEP cats away from your property?

There are approaches to keep cats away from the vicinity of your property, without harming the cat or damaging your belongings. Here are some examples.

Mechanical repellents

Mechanical repellents are specially designed to keep animals away from specific places. If you wish to obtain one of them, contact the SPA.

- Scarecrow sprinkler, the *Scarecrow* combines a motion detector and a sprinkler. It projects a jet of water directly on the animal (www.scatmat.com).
- Automatic repellent for cats and small wildlife animals, the Garden Ghost is a motion sensor that emits a jet of compressed air (www.gardenghost.com).

Odorous repellents

There are different types of odorous repellents, in spray or granules, whose effectiveness can vary. Follow the instruction of an advisor at your garden center or a professional specialized in pest control. When choosing a repellent, you want to make sure that the product will not harm human, animal or plant health.

more specific PROBLEMS? complementary SOLUTIONS!

Other approaches are **complementary** to the repellents and adapted to more **specific problems**. These approaches are not mutually exclusive. Pairing a few of them will increase the effectiveness of your approach.



In case of damage to gardens or vegetable gardens

Cats have their likes and dislikes when it comes to plants. Why not try to keep them away by planting species they hardly appreciate? The fetid street (*Ruta graveolens*), very decorative, is recognized for its characteristic smell that keeps cats away. It is recommended to plant it through other plants or to scatter the dried leaves on the ground. The bulbs of fritillary, decorative garlic and onion, the leaves of fragrant geranium, as well as the planting of a row of marigold, marjoram, rosemary or basil would have the same virtues.

You can also place obstacles in places frequented by cats since they do not like to walk or dig through obstacles.

- Place a few broken coniferous bolts, thorny branches, coarse bark or stones on the surface of the ground.
- Plant some *Opuntia humifusa vulgaris* cactuses or creeping roses at the edge of the flower beds, for example. When cat prick each other a few times on their horns, they avoid the place.
- Install a large mesh (2.5 cm X 2.5 cm) on the ground surface above the bulbs.
- Attach tightly-strung strings or fishing line to small posts, about 2.5 cm from the ground and lightly mix dog hair (easy to get in a grooming room) into the soil of your flower beds.
- Make sure your flower beds, planters or flower pots are as dense as possible and keep the soil moist. Cats hate having wet paws!
- Install a mulch-covered geotextile membrane on the ground surface or a wire netting under the freshly disturbed earth.
- Cut in half, lengthwise, a two-liter bottle of soft drink and fill each part with water. Arrange these containers in the garden.

In case of urine marking

It is natural for cats, both male and female, to mark their territory with urine. The **sterilization** of the animal makes the smell less intense while reducing its need to mark its territory. If you know the cat's guardian who causes this problem on your property, **encourage him to have his pet sterilized**.

In case of soiling of the sand squares

Instinctively, the cat likes to do its need where it is possible to bury them. The sand squares are therefore very inviting. The best way to avoid this situation is to cover the square of the sand. At the same time, you make sure to keep this play area really hygienic, since it is free from bird droppings, leaves, tree seeds or waste produced by other types of animals that walk on the grounds.

In case of predation on feeder birds

To prevent cats from hunting birds that visit your feeders and bird baths, place them away from the groves and at least five feet from the ground. Place the branches under these facilities. Thus, the cats will not be able to get there quickly and silently. If necessary, obtain inverted cones designed to prevent small animals from climbing the masts. Finally, to prevent birds from landing on the ground, clean up fallen seeds under feeders daily or install a seed collector. These devices are on sale in most large garden centre.

Homemade recipe

Mix 30 ml of **Cayenne pepper**, 45 ml of **strong mustard powder**, 75 ml of flour and 2 l of **water**. Apply the mixture to places frequented by cats.