

## **Cats in Gardens**

Following some recent neighbour complaints about cats in gardens, we have carried out some research to provide information as to how to deter them. Even the most ardent cat lover can be driven to distraction by their neighbour's feline friends invading their garden.

There does not seem to be a definite solution to keeping cats off your garden ground but here are some suggestions that could be tried out:

- Common remedies used are that of citrus fruit peel or chilli pepper powder
- Ask your local garden centre to suggest cat deterrent plants that could be scattered around. A close cultivation of shrubs can prevent cats from finding a space to dig.
- Making a noise to shoo them away
- Using a hosepipe or water spray (carefully!)
- Placing a small length of hosepipe in amongst plants
- Owners should provide an area in their own garden for their own cats to use and ensure the soil is turned regularly

However you choose to deal with cats coming into your garden, you should be aware that a cat is a free roaming domestic animal with certain rights by law which include:

1. Cats and their owners cannot be held guilty of trespass
2. It is a serious offence to maim or injure a cat
3. It is an offence to put down poison or set snares for a cat