

Compound Cat Control Guidanceⁱ



Feral, stray and pet cats need to be managed correctly in residential compounds to ensure both PUBLIC health and ANIMAL welfare. This document outlines best practice for dealing with compound cats: **being HUMANE and HYGIENIC in our compound provides the BEST solution.**

Critically, compound living requires acceptance and consideration of DIVERSITY

- Some people dislike cats
- Some people are allergic to cats
- Some people tolerate / like cats
- Some people adore and collect cats

What is the difference between feral and stray cats?ⁱⁱ

- **Feral cats** are not socialized to people. They are usually fearful of humans and survive on their own outdoors. They are not likely to be able to be placed in homes
- **Stray cats** are socialized to people. They are domestic cats that have been abandoned or “strayed” from home and become lost. These cats can be successfully rescued and placed in homes.

It is important to identify the nature of the cat as it is critical to their subsequent management

Where do feral and stray cats come from and why?

- ALL worldwide domestic cats originated from the Middle Eastern wildcat [*F.silvestris lybica*]ⁱⁱⁱ dating back more than 10 000 years ago. Hence cats have been a part of the Arabian landscape for a VERY long time
- They move in from the surrounding streets to satisfy basic needs: FOOD; WATER; SHELTER and REPRODUCTION

Pest Control Approaches:

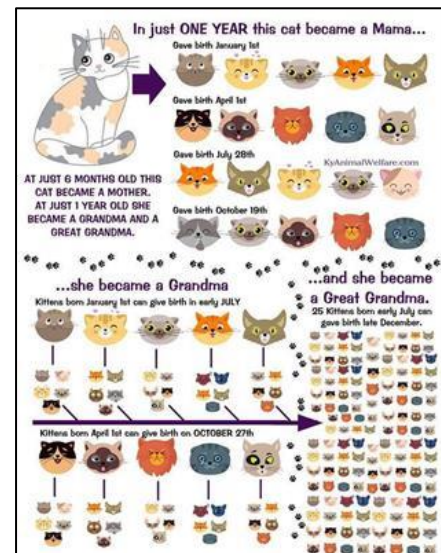
- Catching, removing and disposing of cats [often inhumanely]
- Poisoning/killing of cats



These approaches are not only inhumane, they DO NOT resolve the problem. They simply create SPACE on the compound for further unhealthy, neither neutered nor vaccinated cats to occupy. A HEALTHY STABLE population of FERAL, STRAY and PET cats will prevent this movement of new cats onto the compound.

IF there are no options cats should be euthanized HUMANELY and their bodies disposed of appropriately

Left alone cats will continue to breed at a RAPID rate this is a very strong and SUCCESSFUL natural adaption to ensure overall survival of the species, as it has done for over 10 000 years.



HUMANE control of cats can be achieved following 5 simple rules

1. CONTROL ENTRY of cats to the compound

- Only pets APPROVED by the Compound Pet Policy Procedure are allowed onto the compound: do NOT bring feral or stray cats / kittens to live freely inside the compound
- Residents are encouraged to notify the concierge of any gaps in the compound border through which feral and stray cats may enter [aside from formal entry points]

2. Work with the vets and community to neuter and vaccinate ALL cats and prevent suffering [this also applies to pet cats]

- Neutering: identified by either a tattoo or a clipped left ear
 - 100% effective method to prevent reproduction: there are too many feral and stray cats
 - Improves cats overall lifespan and health: reducing stress; preventing breast, uterus and prostate cancer and uterus infections
 - Prevents problem behaviours: urine marking, fighting, cat calling, roaming and aggression
- Residents are encouraged to send photo's to the concierge of any feral or stray cats who may not be neutered, or may be in pain. All cats with either a tattoo or clipped left ear on the compound have also been vaccinated

3. Keep the environment CLEAN

- Do NOT litter
- Dispose of all food waste HYGIENICALLY: as it attracts flies, rats, pigeons, ants, cockroaches and cats
- COVER all rubbish bins
- Clean barbeques immediately after use
- Do NOT discard meat / bones / left over food from meals into gardens: bones, particularly small chicken, are prone to causing abscesses and subsequent loss of teeth in cats

4. Care for community animals responsibly and within the LAW

- Animal cruelty is immoral and a crime under Civil and Sharia law with the GCC Animal Welfare Act being endorsed by Saudi Arabia and approved in Royal Decree No M/44: spread KINDNESS to animals but remain SENSIBLE and SENSITIVE to other cultures / views and **act within the LAW**
- Avoid creating problems by caring for animals APPROPRIATELY: healthy feral cats are capable of hunting birds, rodents and insects. The compound has WONDERFUL landscaping with sufficient water, shade and bird life to support healthy cats: there is NO NEED to feed feral cats

- Feeding feral cats reduces their independence and increases their presence around residents. Please REMEMBER that some residents do not like cats and may be allergic
- Feral cats ARE NOT PETS and if frightened, may scratch or bite unsuspecting individuals or children
- Stray cats will differ in their level of socialization around people. It is important to either:
 - Attempt to rehome these cats, if they are sufficiently socialised
 - If not sufficiently socialised, to encourage independence by NOT feeding them: these are the cats that are most likely to cause disturbances in a communal living environment.

5. Never abandon pets

- Your pets' lives are YOUR responsibility: plan ahead and save money to relocate them when required
- DO NOT adopt pets IF you are unable to make a LIFETIME commitment: emotional, time and financial

Tips for people who are either allergic or dislike cats:

- **Removing the reason/s WHY** the cat wants to enter the premises will more likely provide a permanent solution:
 - o FOOD/WATER: don't leave out
 - o SHELTER: try and not provide
- **Use natural cat deterrents: these will need applying regularly around edges of premises**
 - o Citrus: peel and fruit/juice/essence of lemons, limes, grapefruit, oranges
 - o Herbal repellents: best in an oil form or actual plant: Lavender; Thyme; Eucalyptus; Geraniums; Basil; Lemongrass; Peppermint; *Coleus Canina* (also known as 'scaredy-cat'); Tobacco; Pepper
 - o Coffee
 - o Vinegar
- **Use synthetic cat deterrents/devices:**
 - o Cat mace / Feliway / Boundary / Natural Armour
 - o Ultrasonic devices
- **Spray bottle of water:** gently spray towards cats
- **Plants to attract cats:** Plant cat nip or honeysuckle away from your residence to attract cats

In addition:

- ensure that antihistamines are readily available
- if highly allergic, ensure sub-cut adrenalin is readily available [to be prescribed by doctor]

Keep in mind at all times that animal cruelty is a crime

“The internationally recognized ‘five freedoms’ (freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; freedom from fear and distress; freedom from physical and thermal discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and disease; and freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour) provide valuable guidance in animal welfare.”^{iv}

ⁱ Acknowledgment: Lana OpenPaws various documents and verbal advice

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ⁱⁱ Alley Cat Allies: downloaded at <http://4fi8v2446i0sw2rpq2a3fg51-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/FeralvsStray-Caregiver.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Carlos A. Driscoll. The taming of the cat: *Sci Am*. 2009 Jun; 300(6): 68–75

^{iv} Article 7.1.2.2 OIE [WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH] - Terrestrial Animal Health Code: Twentieth edition, 2011