

Best Practices: Community Cat Colony Care

You want to protect the cats - and part of keeping cats safe is keeping the cat's colony sites clean and unobtrusive. As a Colony Manager, keep these easy pointers in mind when caring for cats and working with neighbors in the area.

FEEDING

Feeding shall be done in a sanitary manner. The amount of food put out should not exceed an adequate amount for the number of cats in the colony. Leaving food to sit out overnight may attract insects or wildlife, therefore, is not recommended.

Keep the feeding location neat and clean. We recommend a feeding station to keep the food dishes in one place for easy cleanup and provide a tidy appearance. If you feed on disposable plates or bowls, take them with you - to throw away or recycle.

Deter insects:

- Surround the food bowl with a ring of Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth.
- Use an ant proof bowl.
- Wet food can attract more bugs, so cut back, or completely cut out, the amount of wet food that you feed. Be sure to add more dry food to compensate.

PREEMPTIVE STEPS

Trap-Neuter-Return all cats in the colony - and let neighbors know that is the plan. A short conversation stating your intentions early on can eliminate confusion down the road. Let them know they can contact you with questions or concerns.

Follow good cleaning and feeding protocols! Remove all trash and debris, even trash you did not create, daily or weekly to help make the feeding station sanitary and unobtrusive. This helps avoid possible health code violations and maintain positive relations with the local residents.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

When dealing with a neighbor who has concerns about the cats, determine the specific problem and do your best to resolve it. Remain calm and constructive in all of your interactions.

Use humane deterrents to keep cats away from places they are not wanted. Offer to provide and apply these methods for neighbors at your own expense.

Read more about deterrents at www.alleycat.org/Deterrents.



Have more questions?

Visit suncitycats.org for more information.
e-mail us at help@suncitycats.org
or call 915-472-4926