

We are aware that problems can arise when cats are attracted to neighbours' gardens. Here are some tips that may help you:

- * Cats don't like wet earth, so try to keep the flower beds well watered.
- * Chicken wire will usually deter cats and is preferable to netting (wild animals may get caught in netting).
- * Prickly plants and ground cover plants can prove to be a deterrent.

There are a variety of approved chemical repellent products on the market so it is a question of reading the labels, seeking advice from assistants, and choosing what appears to be the most suitable product. Different products have different active ingredients so if one is unsuccessful it may be worth trying another one. The instructions for the use of any chemical product should be read carefully.

Note: It is illegal to use substances like creosote, diesel oil, coal tar soap, peppermint oil, citrus oil or eucalyptus oil etc.

You need to be aware that by nature cats are solitary animals, and are free to roam - they are protected by law. Cat owners cannot be sued for damages; it is an offence to steal a cat; it is an offence to harm or terrify a cat; it is also an offence to put down snares or poison or an unlicensed deterrent.