

Did you miss....?



- * Trapping Tips and Tricks

- * The Drop Trap: A Trapper's Best Friend

Recorded webinars at
www.communitycatspodcast.com

Click on "Resources" in menu bar,
then "Public Webinar Archive"



Your presenters



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The bond

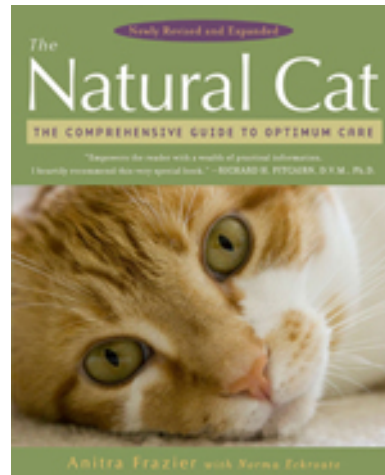


What kind of food: nutrition



Read the ingredients label

- Ingredients listed in order of volume
- Better = whole meats listed first, not grains or by-products (*cats are obligate carnivores*)
- Better = pricier



Learn more:

- *The Natural Cat* by Anitra Frazier
- feline-nutrition.org
- catinfo.org
- littlebigcat.com/category/nutrition

What kind of food: wet vs. dry

Which form of steak do you think is healthier?



Wet steak



Dry steak

What kind of food: value

Choose the best quality and type you can comfortably afford

“What is the best food for feeding feral cats”

We're All About Cats (www.wallaboutcats.com)



CAT FOOD

CAT LITTER

Search This Website...

Recommended:

- 4Health All Life Stages Dry Cat Food
- Kirkland Signature Maintenance Cat Chicken & Rice Formula
- Rachel Ray Nutrish Natural Dry Cat Food
- Diamond Naturals Activate Cat Chicken Meal & Rice Formula
- SportMix Wholesomes Chicken Meal & Rice Formula



Where to feed?

Be as strategic as circumstances allow

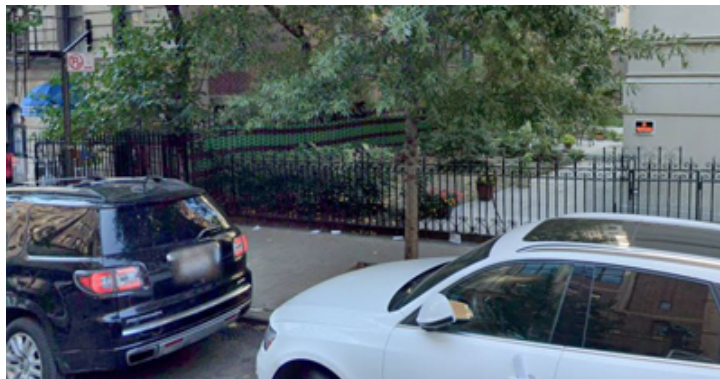
Think:

- Low visibility (as discreet as possible, e.g., backyard not front of the house)
- Minimal impact on neighbors or work site
- Safe and quiet for cats
- Accessible for you
- Distance from any threatened wildlife



Arm extender/grabber

www.amazon.com



How to feed



No



Yes

Feeding stations

- Hide food, dishes, supplies
- Protect from element
- Keep site clean & neat



Trash can



Storage bin



Wood (large or small)
www.feralvilla.com

Mock rocks

Help keep feeding stations hidden, even in plain sight

Lightweight, available in a range of sizes and shapes

Use a hand-held jigsaw to cut a doorway

DIY video on YouTube: “How to make a hollow faux rock cover”

Artificial landscape rock – extra large
by Outdoor Essential Products
www.outdooresentialproducts.com



Gravity feeders & auto-waterers

- If feeding regularly is a problem (limited access, weekend trip, etc.)
- Use smaller feeders or waterers
- Could attract wildlife, rodents or other cats



A couple of tips



No feeding station and it's raining or going to rain? Take-out dishes!



Use Vittles Vaults to store dry food on-site – keep in a storage bin (find on www.amazon.com)

Feeding in wintertime

- Cats expend more calories in colder temperatures
- When it's cold, cats burn more calories keeping warm and are more active (they sleep more in hot weather)
- Research shows that cats need an average of 15% more food in winter



Clearing a path in the snow

Rock salt and chemical de-icers can be highly irritating and even toxic to cats

A safe solution:

- 1 teaspoon of Dawn dish detergent, 1 tablespoon of rubbing alcohol, ½ gallon of warm water
- Mix together
- Spray or pour on ice





When to feed

Regular schedule

- Cats are very habitual
- As close as possible to same time, same place daily
- “Clicker” train (or unique sound)
- If possible, choose quieter, less trafficked time. Also consider wildlife, bugs, trapping plans
- Improves monitoring, trapping



Ants can't swim

- Purchase ant-proof cat food bowls – lots of products on Amazon
- Build your own moat – place bowl on a tray with water on it

Neater Feeder
www.amazon.com



Flies

- Most attracted to wet food on hot days
- Less attracted to dry food
- They sleep at night – train cats to eat at sundown (at least during summertime)



Slugs

- Reportedly will not cross a circle of diatomaceous earth (too sharp). Only buy food grade.
- Also can try crushed egg shells, salt and chalk powder.
- Place food bowl on sheet of sandpaper
- Are attracted to more easily accessible food (e.g., a bit of food on the ground a few feet away rather than having to climb a bowl)



DiatomaceousEarth
www.amazon.com



Avoid attracting wildlife

- Feed during daylight – most wildlife are nocturnal
- Can try feeding at dawn or dusk
- Train the cats to eat during a window of time (e.g., 5 to 6pm) and don't leave excess uneaten food behind
- Keep feeding area clean



Raccoons, opossum & skunks

- For wildlife that can climb, but can't jump vertically, build a climb-proof feeder
- Main elements:
 - (1) Platform (2 ft. square) raised 40" off the ground with a treated 4" x 4" post. Part of platform can be covered, but leave room for cats to jump up.
 - (2) A skirt around the platform which wildlife can't grip (metal flashing)
 - (3) A smaller jump-up platform two feet away adequate for cats but not wildlife



photo: Forgotten Felines of Forsyth
www.forgottenfelinesofforsyth.org

Opossum

- Don't like the smell of molasses
- Mixture: one cup of molasses dissolved in one liter of water
- Use spray bottle to spray around areas you want to repel them from (feeding areas, shelters)
- Will eat apples, berries, acorns, persimmons
- Are nocturnal and dislike flashing lights, like Christmas lights



Pigeons, chickens & other birds

- Birds are diurnal and inactive at night, so feed cats at dawn, dusk or when dark out
- For daytime feeding with a feeding station, attach door flaps (e.g., attach plastic strips over entrance)
- Most birds will eat cracked corn (chicken feed).



Clean up!

- Number one complaint against cat feeders is leaving a mess
- Avoid feeding off products which can easily blow away (paper plates, dishes)
- Pick up everything – cans, plates, trays, spoons, non-cat trash (be a good neighbor)
- Don't leave bags of trash on-site with any food scent inside - can get ripped open or trap/suffocate wildlife



Water in winter

- Healthy cats don't need much water, but do need some daily
- Especially important when main source of food is dry food
- If cats are present, feed some wet food right away with a little extra water mixed in – another good reason to get them on a feeding pattern



Prevent water from freezing

Products you can buy



solar heated bowl:
Solar Sipper (limited supply remaining)
www.amazon.com or search Google

microwave heat pad:
Snuggle Safe
www.entirelypets.com



electric heated bowl:
Farm Innovators Heated Pet Bowl with
stainless steel insert
www.amazon.com

Prevent water from freezing

Do-it-yourself



Styrofoam cooler:
Lifoam 24 Can Nested Cooler
www.walmart.com



deep, wide, thick plastic bowl:
Petmate Crock Bowl (10 cup)
www.amazon.com



small Styrofoam box:
1. line interior with plastic bag
2. cut small drinking hole in lid



Bucket, tire & rocks



Winter shelter

Cats are good at finding places to stay dry, but need help also staying warm during winter in cold climates

Good winter shelter:

- Waterproof
- Well insulated
- Minimal empty air space

Cats' body heat is captured and warms interior space



Neighborhood Cats winter shelter

Plans and step-by-step picture trail:

www.neighborhoodcats.org

(click on “Colony Care” in menu bar, then on “Feral cat winter shelter”)

Materials:

- 8ft x 2ft two-inch thick sheet of Styrofoam insulation
- Silicone sealant
- Self-sticking linoleum floor tiles
- Deck paint

Table saw is best for cutting up pieces

Interior space: 18” W x 20” L x 12” H



CSM Stray Foundation shelter



- Storage bin and ½" Styrofoam
- Instructions at www.neighborhoodcats.org (Colony Care > Feral cat winter shelter)
- Best bins are thicker, cold temperature rated: Husky Heavy Duty 54 Gal. Storage Tote with Lid (www.homedepot.com)



Styrofoam boxes

Shipping containers (meat, fish, vaccines, etc.) Can order in bulk online.

Cut 6" round or square doorway in short side (leave lip off ground)

Use silicone glue to attach top

Deck paint to camouflage



For sale

Pre-fabricated wood
www.feralvilla.com (ships in
USA)



Large Styrofoam fish box
wrapped in plastic drum liners,
attached with heat welded plastic
straps.
www.wintercatshelter.com (NYC
area only)



Emergency winter shelter

Cardboard boxes, newspaper,
plastic liners & duct tape

Instructions at
www.neighborhoodcats.org
(Colony Care > Feral cat winter
shelter)



Placement

- Camouflage to blend in
- Discreet
- Near feeding station



YES



NO

Shelter tips

- Place two shelters so fronts facing one another, then lay heavy board spanning the tops of both
- Place heavy objects on top (like rocks, boards, bricks)
- Add a flap over front door (after cats having started using)
- Raise off ground (wooden pallets)
- Cats scratching Styrofoam? Place linoleum tiles on exterior (use also as camouflage)



Interior insulating materials



Straw (not hay)



Mylar blanket



Shredded newspaper



Carolina Pet Company Purr Pad
www.petco.com



Flat newspaper



Blankets, towels

Neighbor relations: deterrents

Keep cats out of gardens & yards

- Motion-activated sprinklers
- Ultrasonic devices (also motion activated)

List of products at
www.neighborhoodcats.org
(Colony Care > Keeping cats out of gardens and yards)



Yard Gard
www.bird-x.com



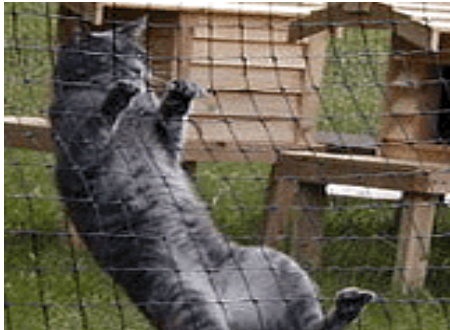
Critter Ridder
www.havahart.com

Neighbor relations: physical barriers

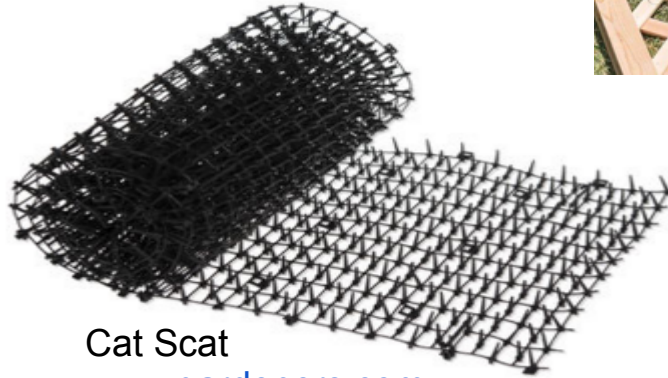
- Car covers
- Cat-proof fencing
- Cat Scat mats
- Stones / lattice



Classic Accessories
www.walmart.com



Purrfect Fence
www.purrfectfence.com



Cat Scat
www.gardeners.com



Alternative litter boxes

Cats prefer digging when they eliminate – give them a more attractive place to go

Locate strategically, clean periodically

Options:

- Pile of peat moss
- Sandbox
- Litterbox in a storage bin (with doorway cut out)



Dealing with complaints

Keeping the peace

- **Listen** and try to understand their perspective
- Explain how TNR and your work is helping (no kittens, much less noise and odor, continued rodent control)
- Seek solutions to their problems
- Don't meet hostility with hostility – *remember when you walk away, the cats will still be there*



Health hacks



Safeguarding your colony's health doesn't have to be costly or difficult.

Try these simple tips to keep cats purring along!



Vitamin C to the rescue

- Bolsters immune systems during times of stress (trapping, trips to the vet, severe weather)
- Use powdered supplements or organic tomato sauce (without onion as an ingredient)
- Give up to 250 milligrams (1/8th teaspoon) per cat with each meal



Vitamin D – “there goes the sun”

- Essential for proper calcium absorption
- Weak winter sun can result in Vitamin D deficiency
- Supplement cats' winter diets with fish-based Omega 3 oils – 2 to 4 drops per cat daily



Omega 3 Pet
www.nordicnaturals.com

D-mannose

- Dietary supplement that occurs naturally in cranberries
- Helps eliminate harmful bacteria in the urinary tract
- Maintenance dose equals 1/8th teaspoon twice a day (per cat)
- Especially helpful for cats prone to feline lower urinary tract disease



Probiotics

- Promotes healthy intestinal flora (good bacteria that lives in the intestines)
- Healthy gut = stronger immune system
- For cats on antibiotics, helps replenish good intestinal bacteria killed by the medication
- Add to food or water – ¼ teaspoon per cat daily



Pet Dophilus by Jarrow
www.chewy.com

Fleas

- Sprinkle diatomaceous earth (food grade) in cracks, crevices, shelters or other areas fleas gather – kills on contact
- (optional) rub DE on the cats if you can handle any
- Beneficial nematodes are microscopic organisms that eat flea larvae – spray over grass in shady areas during cooler part of day



DiatomaceousEarth
www.amazon.com



NemaSeek by Arbico Organics
www.arbico-organics.com

Fleas

- Capstar begins killing adult fleas within 30 minutes – over-the-counter, so no prescription required
- Dose is one tablet – can be administered in food
- Safe for kittens over 2 lbs.
- Does not kill eggs or larvae
- Active ingredient is nitenpyram – generic versions may be cheaper



www.amazon.com

Worms

Garlic helps cats rid themselves of intestinal worms. The nematodes lose their grip on the intestinal walls and are then excreted.

Garlic is often misunderstood as being similar to onions which are toxic to cats

To prepare:

1. Crush or finely chop a few cloves of fresh garlic
2. Spread in pan and let dry in refrigerator for 24 hours
3. Mix into wet food – start with 1/8 teaspoon for a 12 oz. can and gradually increase to 1 teaspoon per can



Next up:




Return-to-field: What is it, why do it and how?

November 9, 2019 @ 2pm – 4pm ET

Register at www.communitycatspodcast.com





A woman with short dark hair, wearing a pink and white floral tank top and a plaid skirt, is sitting on a pile of laundry. She is smiling at the camera. In front of her are several wire cages, some of which contain cats. The scene is outdoors, with a wooden picnic table to the left and a stone wall and trees in the background.

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www.neighborhoodcats.org



Colony Caretaking Tips & Tricks

September 21, 2019

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Tomahawk Live Trap