Keeping Unwanted Animals Out of the Garden

Cats

Water: The Ultimate Cat Repellent?
Cats do not like getting wet. When you catch cats in the garden, you can try hosing them down. This will reinforce that they are unwanted in your garden bed.

Plants That Are Cat Repellents
There are a number of plants that cats dislike the smell of. Among them are:
- *Coleus canina*, or common known as "scaredy cat plant"
- *Rue*
- *Lavender* (which is also deer-resistant)
- *Pennyroyal*
- *Geranium*
- *Lemon thyme*.

Interplant your garden with these plants, making the entire area seem repulsive to cats. As an added bonus, interplanting will attract pollinators and can help to avoid pests too.

Dried Herbs and Scented Oils That Double as Cat Repellents
If you do not want to plant herbs or other plants that cats cannot stand, you could scatter the dried version or dab on an oiled version for the same effect.

If using a dried herb, lightly dust the area with the powder or dried leaves, covering the ground evenly and sparsely. If using an oil, rub the oil around the perimeter of any containers or spray it directly onto the soil.

- Dried rue can be found without much difficulty.
- Cayenne pepper, dry mustard, cinnamon, and garlic powder are often used, as well.
- Coffee grounds also work well.
- As for oils, consider using lavender oil, lemon grass oil, citronella oil, peppermint oil, eucalyptus oil, or mustard oil.

Make cat-away spray
Combine 1 tsp of black pepper, dry mustard & cinnamon in a spray bottle with a few drops of citrus essential oil and a crushed garlic clove. Fill to the top with water. Apply to your garden beds. Rumour has it that this magic combination of strong scents is unparalleled kitty repellent. Remember to reapply after it rains.

Wash well to deter garden cats
If your unwanted visitor has a favourite location, try washing the area well with a hose to remove the scent or urine spray. Cats tend to choose the same spot repeatedly — removing their previous stake on your garden will go a long way towards preventing reoccurrences.

Create Motion
Whirly gigs and other wind catchers will provide motion as they catch the wind deterring unwanted animals.
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Create a Physical Barrier
Create an obstacle course out of wooden chopsticks or craft sticks and string. Space chopsticks or craft sticks evenly apart in between the plants in your garden and create a maze with the string. A field of small obstacles will be unappealing. The sticks should be no further than 8 inches apart from one another in order to be effective.

An obstacle course can also be made out of small branches placed in rows. The softer wispy types are particularly effective as they will also be in motion as they catch the wind and will obstruct part of the garden.

Cats don't like to walk on prickly, uncomfortable material. Spread out something on which the refined paws of cats will fear to tread, such as sharp-edged pine cones, twigs or river rocks.

The surface will be uncomfortable to walk on but also difficult to dig into. If a cat cannot dig into the soil, that cat is not likely to attempt to use it as a litter box.

Squirrels
Squirrels detest the scent of cayenne pepper and chili powder so sprinkling it around the areas that are affected by squirrels will keep them away.

Rabbits
Use flowers to deter rabbits from your vegetable garden. Rabbits love marigolds and wildflowers and will head for them instead of eating your vegetables.

Raccoons
A single string fence around the garden with several aluminum pie plates attached to it may help. Once they get used to the noise, sprinkle ground up cayenne peppers around the stalks of the plants. Another deterrent is to fill a spray bottle with water and add lots of hot sauce. To know how much, taste it yourself! If you think it is spicy you are on the right track. Now, spray your vegetables with it and reapply after it rains.

Bears
Noisemakers can often be enough to frighten off bears. Hanging aluminum pie plates may work well as they catch the wind.

In some cases, using Chili Pepper spray on plants may also help.