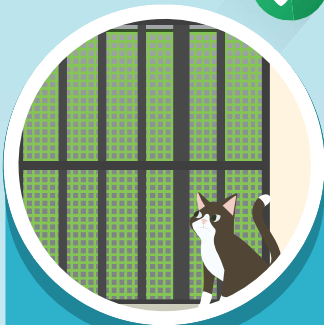# LIVING WITH CATS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Stray cats, also known as community cats, live in our environment.

In Singapore, there is a nationwide sterilisation programme that has reduced the stray cat population over the years. These cats are generally wary of people and other animals. However, some have become used to human interaction through the efforts of responsible caregiving.

Here are some tips on what you can do if you are bothered by stray cats (these will deter cats but will not harm them):
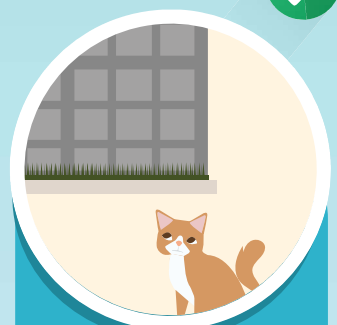
• Wire/plastic mesh: Meshes can be placed on gates and entrances to prevent cats from entering your premises.

• Natural and sonic repellents: White vinegar and citrus peels can be sprayed/sprinkled onto areas/spots to deter cats from defecating. A sonic repellent, which emits high frequency sound that repels cats, can also be used. However, results may differ.

• Check if a cat's left ear is tipped: A tipped left ear indicates that the cat is sterilised.

• Rubber spiked mats: These mats may discourage cats from climbing ledges or digging up gardens and in flower pots.