

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

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What Can You Do About Feral Cats?

A feral cat is a domestic cat that has gone wild and today, there are an estimated 60 million feral cats in the United States. Feral cats can transmit diseases, such as rabies and toxoplasmosis; cause significant losses to our populations of native birds, reptiles and amphibians; and can be a general nuisance.

What Should You Know About Feral Cats?

History tells us that in about 5,000 B.C., the European and African wild cat (*Felis silvestris*) were domesticated in the Fertile Crescent region of the Middle East and Africa. These cats were used to control the populations of mice and rats in areas where people lived. Over the years, these wild cats evolved into a separate species called the domestic or house cat (*Felis catus*).

Most domestic cats are under the direct care of an owner. These cats usually have access to residences, receive medical care and are vaccinated.

Feral cats are born outside and are never socialized in the first 24 weeks of their lives. These cats are not owned and therefore have become wild.

Feral cats are often aggressive or show avoidance behavior around people. They usually live outside but may occasionally seek food and shelter in abandoned buildings or other structures. While they look the same as an owned cat, feral cats are more likely to have scratches on their faces and torn ears due to fighting.

These cats are prolific breeders. About 65 days after mating, females will give birth to two to ten kittens and they can produce up to five litters per year. The Humane Society of the U.S. estimates that a pair of breeding cats and their offspring can produce over 400,000 cats in seven years if conditions are ideal.

Important Issues And Impacts

Feral cats pose risks to public health and safety. Cat owners are required by law to have their cats vaccinated for diseases. Feral cats, on the other hand, are rarely vaccinated so they are far more likely to carry and transmit diseases to humans and other cats. Cat scratch fever, plague, rabies, ringworm, salmonellosis and toxoplasmosis are just a few of the diseases they are known to transmit. You should know that in three separate studies, 62 to 80 percent of the feral cats studied were tested positive for toxoplasmosis. Feral cats are hosts of fleas and ticks and these are known carriers of diseases that can be transmitted to humans.

Studies have shown that feral cats pose a serious threat to native wildlife. They estimate that 480 million birds are killed by feral cats, annually. The large numbers of small mammals, reptiles and amphibians killed by these predators each year are unknown. Some would argue that well fed cats do not prey on wildlife. However, a study conducted in Sweden showed that the diets of well-fed

(turn the page)

50 Years Ago . . .

On June 7, 1963, the Rolling Stones released their first single. It was a cover version of Chuck Berry's song 'Come On'. Wow! Can you believe they've been around this long?

Celebrating A Great Football Coach

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will."

Vince Lombardi, born June 11, 1913

Rave Review!

"I noticed termite pellets on exterior wood patio covers and inside my garage. I already did some online research and knew that I wanted to fumigate and not just spot treat. Contacted Termite Terry and an inspection was performed by Skip. Skip was very thorough in explaining the entire process and what we needed to do to prepare for the fumigation. Skip also showed-up a couple days before the fumigation and provided the special bags needed for the food and medicine; he also reviewed the process. The tent crews arrived promptly the day of fumigation and immediately got busy putting up the tent. The crew leader was helpful, informative and didn't mind me sticking around to watch and ask questions. By the time they were done, the two-story home looked like it was shrink-wrapped; they did a great job with the tent and seals. 48-hours later the tent was removed and our home cleared for occupancy.

We contacted three termite companies and all came out to do an inspection and provide a price. All were 'A' rated companies and professional. However, the price differences were more than I expected, and I came to realize it had to do with the volume of my house (which is used to determine the amount of Vikane gas used) that each company measured. I ended-up measuring the volume of my home myself, based on how the tent would hang over the house (balconies, patio covers, etc.) since this is the volume that the gas would occupy, and I came the closest to Skip's calculation; which was no surprise since Skip physically measured my home with a wheel and rod. So I went with Termite Terry; the bonus is that of the three companies they were the only one that had a money back guarantee in addition to re-fumigating."

Jeff McClure
SAN CLEMENTE

house cats consisted of 15 to 90 percent native prey, depending on availability.

When you consider the risks of disease transmission, an ever-growing cat population and the impact of predation by feral cats on wildlife, most scientist, wildlife managers and public health officials will agree that management of feral cats is necessary.

We Need To Be Responsible Pet Owners

One of the best ways to avoid problems with feral cats is to become a responsible pet owner. Here are some recommendations:

- Owners should only keep as many cats as can be fed and provided care.
- Cats should be kept inside so they will be safe and won't harm wildlife. If your cats must stay outside, try and limit the amount of time and space. You should also supervise them if possible.
- Use collars with tags so that your cats won't be mistaken as strays or feral. Many cats do not like wearing collars and will break them off. If that is the case, you should consider using a "passive integrated transponder" (PIT tag). These tags contain a unique microchip that will allow animal control officials to easily identify the animal and owner.
- Vaccinate your cats as required by law.
- Cats should be spayed or neutered to prevent unwanted breeding.
- If cats are unwanted, you should use legal, humane and ethical actions for control. Please contact your local animal control office or humane society for assistance.
- Do not release unwanted cats in rural areas or in another neighborhood because this only perpetuates the problem.

Proper Management Of Feral Cats

There are a number of methods that can be used to control feral cats. Due to the fact that many people are

sensitive about cats, we strongly recommend using these methods for control as your first option:

1. **Make your property less attractive** by clearing or thinning thick vegetation. Prune back the lower limbs of shrubs and small trees to a height of at least 2 feet.
2. **Eliminate moisture sources**, such as leaking pipes and rain gutter downspouts. Depressions in the ground should be filled so that water cannot pool.
3. **Feed your pets indoors.** If you do feed your pets outdoors, remove pet dishes and food after they finish. Store pet food indoors or in sealed heavy-duty containers.
4. **Garbage cans need to be kept covered and sealed.**
5. **Close off areas where feral cats can hide and live.** This includes areas such as under homes, decks, porches and sheds. Use fencing and netting to exclude cats from gardens and flower beds. You may also want to install 1/4-inch cat spikes along ledges to restrict their access.
6. **Use frightening devices** to keep cats away. One of the most effective methods is to use motion-activated sprinklers. When a cat walks in front of one of these sensors, the sprinklers will come on and frighten it away. Dogs, in a fenced in area, can also be effective. Other methods would be to use a garden hose, a tennis ball or by clapping and yelling.
7. **Start an effective rodent control program.** Mice and rats serve as food for feral cats and by reducing the population of rodents, you will make your property much less attractive.
8. **Use traps to remove feral cats.** Trapping is best left to trained professionals. Once

trapped, these animals should be taken to an animal shelter or your local humane society. If you are concerned of what may happen to these animals after they have been trapped, you should talk to your local humane society about their "Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release" program. While not everyone agrees that this program will be effective, it is a humane and nonlethal solution that may reduce the population of feral cats.

The control of feral cats is not an easy task, especially since some of your neighbors may feel sorry for the cats and be feeding them. The problems associated with feral cats are only going to get worse if everyone in your community doesn't get involved. That is why it is so important for you to talk to your neighbors and work together to solve the problem.

Ant-icipation Of Earthquakes!

New research is suggesting that ants are able to predict earthquakes before they strike.

Gabriele Berberich, a researcher at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany, has discovered that active faults are the preferred nesting sites for red wood ants in Germany. She has counted over 15,000 red wood ant mounds lined up along these faults.

Berberich and her colleagues have tracked the ants during the past 3 years with video cameras. The cameras ran 24-7 and they used special software to catalog behavioral changes. Between 2009 and 2012, there were 10 earthquakes of a magnitude of 2.0 to 3.2. It is interesting to note that the ant's behavior only changed for

earthquakes greater than 2.0, which is about the smallest quake that a human can feel.

On a normal day, the ants worked during the daytime and they rested inside their mounds at night. But, they discovered that before an earthquake, the ants would stay awake all night and remain outside of their mounds. And, the ants did not resume their normal behavior until a day after the earthquake.

How do the ants sense an earthquake coming? Berberich suspects that ants pick up changing gas emissions or local shifts in the earth's magnetic field.

President's Economic Stimulus Plan

More and more people are taking advantage of President Termite Terry's Economic Stimulus Plan:

- Peter and Erica Norgard of Costa Mesa referred us to Dena Fisher of Costa Mesa.
- Anne Garkani of Newport Beach recommended our services to Douglas and Linda Ford of Newport Beach.
- Tuyen Ngo of Westminster referred us to Jacob Huynh, also of Westminster.
- Maryanne Slotnick of Rancho Santa Margarita referred us to her neighbor, Anita Khan of Rancho Santa Margarita.

Everyone who participated will receive a **FREE \$50.00 Gas Card**. To stimulate your economy, all you have to do is refer us to your friends and neighbors. And, if they have us do a termite treatment, wood repairs or start up a regular pest control service, we'll send you a **FREE \$50 Gas Card, too!**

June Wedding Fun Trivia!

June is the most popular month to get married, so let's have some fun and look at these facts:

- The average engagement last 6 months.
- 2.4 million American brides say "I do" in a year.
- The average person will fall in love 7 times before they get married.
- 40% of brides marry the first man they fall in love with.
- 20% of men still propose the old fashioned way, on their knees.
- The average age of a U.S. bride is 24.5 years old.
- 100,000 couples get married in Las Vegas each year.
- The average cost of a U.S. wedding is \$28,000. (Start saving your money!).
- Traditionally, rice was thrown at weddings as a sign of fertility.
- The average age of a groom in the U.S. is 26.5 years old.
- The average 3-tier wedding cake will serve 153 people.
- The longest engagement on record is 67 years. (A couple in Mexico finally got married in their 80's!).
- 12% are married 2 times and 3% marry 3 or more times.
- The average wedding gown in the U.S., cost \$1,000.
- 55% in the U.S. have married once. Another 30% never get married.
- Men wearing wedding rings became a custom during WWII because they wanted a remembrance of their wives left behind and a connection symbol.
- People toss confetti after a wedding to symbolize fertility.
- In a Greek wedding, the best man is responsible for paying for all the liquor.

Congratulations to all of you lucky June brides and grooms and may you all have a long and happy life together!

"Termite" Terry's Insider Information is Published by:

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**"You're Going To Love Living In A Pest Free Home.
I Guarantee It."**

I Thought She Was Going To Kill Me!

I got a letter from a real estate agent the other day and I couldn't believe how upset she was. I thought she was going to kill me! Our company has worked with her for over seven years and I thought we were the best of friends. So, we got back in touch with her to find out what happened.

It all started when she had asked for us to do a termite inspection on her mother's house. **We found both drywood and subterranean termites** in her home and sent her an inspection report and estimate with all the specifications in writing. In the past, she has always trusted our opinion. But, in this case, one of her family members talked her into getting second and third opinions from other companies.

Inspectors from two other companies did inspections of her home and **all they could find were drywood termites**. What is really funny is that she even showed them a copy of our report. It clearly told them where the subterranean termites were located, but they still couldn't find them. These two guys stood their ground and told her that we were wrong. The agent thought we were trying to take advantage of her mother.

We went back over to her mom's house the next day so we could meet with the agent. Using our report, we simply looked where the report said there were subterranean termites. The termites were clearly visible for her to see! I don't know why the other guys couldn't see them. Do they even know what subterranean termites look like??

Ladies and gentlemen, this happens all the time and you're going to have to be careful when you get other opinions. If you really want other opinions, that's alright. All I ask is that you give us a chance to show you what we found before you make a choice. On top of that, the other guys didn't even measure her home right for the fumigation! There is no other way to put it; **If she had trusted the other two guys, she would have gotten ripped off!**



"Termite" Terry Singleton