

There are measures that cat owners can take to help reduce the risk.

Collars

- * A correctly fitted collar and bell can reduce cat predation by at least a third. Recent research showed that cats equipped with a bell returned 41% fewer birds and 34% fewer mammals.
- * For the safety of the cat the collar should be a quick release one that snaps open if it gets caught on a branch.
- * The collar should be firmly fitted. You should be able to fit two fingers between the collar and the cat's neck. If in doubt about fitting ask your vet.

Garden deterrents

- * Various humane chemical deterrents are available from garden centres. Always take care to read the label and follow the instructions.
- * Research has shown that 'Catwatch', an ultrasonic cat deterrent, reduces cat visits into gardens by a third - cats may also learn to avoid gardens with active devices.