But you can do something really important: Fix me! Having kittens is hard on my health, and a lot of the kittens get sick and die. I might not seem thrilled about it, but spaying is the best option for me.

I’d feel bad trapping and putting you through that. Does it really make much of a difference?

Once I’m fixed, I won’t go into heat and attract new boy cats to the block, won’t have kittens, and I’ll be protected against rabies and at less risk for mammary cancer. For boys, it’s easier too - they don’t fight for females, spray for territory, and annoy people. And fewer cat fights keep diseases from spreading. Over time, lower number of kittens means fewer cats will be put down in the shelters.

Sounds good! What else can I do to help?

Thanks for asking! I’d love a shelter, especially in the winter! They’re cheap to make and only take minutes to put together.
Hello, sir. Permit me to address some of those points if I may. If my friends and I are neutered, we won’t be "perfuming" your yard or dueling over mates. And if our ladies aren’t in heat they won’t attract male cats to the block. Which means less odor, less noise, fewer cats.

Frankly, I’d rather you just get out of here.

We’re here because irresponsible people dumped us. Back in the old days Animal Control used to trap my forefathers, then remove or kill them – but that only created a “vacuum effect” letting new cats move in and start the cycle over again. If you fix us and put us back (Trap-Neuter-Return) we won’t make new cats and we’ll prevent new cats from moving in.

But can’t you stay out of my yard? I’m sick of finding your “presents.”

We don’t like to get wet! Citrus smells annoy us, as do rocks over soil so that we can’t dig.

But what if this doesn’t completely solve my problem? I just want you gone!

I’m sorry I can’t help you 100%, but let’s be realistic. Poisoning us is a felony, and if we died, new unfixed cats would only take over again. That’s why Animal Control no longer wastes taxpayer money trying to catch us.

May I suggest motion-sensor sprinklers?

Visit NYCferalCat.org for more ideas.

Trap-Neuter-Return is much more effective. Give it a try!