

NUISANCE CATS

What are some of the Problems with Cats?

Nuisance and feral cats can cause neighbourhood problems such as noise, attacks on pet cats, marking territory and defecating in gardens and children's sand pits.

Cats are nocturnal (animals of the night). They will wander further at night. This behaviour leads to:

- Mating and territorial behaviour
- Cat disease and injuries through dog attacks, fighting and mating
- Preying on wildlife
- Increased chance of getting hit by a car

Also:

- Every year thousands of cats are surrendered to the Cat Haven, only about a quarter of these cats/kittens are able to find suitable homes.
- Uncontrolled cats mating and fighting at night is a major source of noise complaint to councils.

Local Laws – Number of cats

The City of Albany has a local law governing the number of cats, however, there is no state or local law dealing with the actual control of cats.

There is a restriction of 3 adult cats per property, over the age of 3 months.

A person who breeds cats, may with the written approval of Council, keep up to 6 adult breeding cats on a property in the district subject to:

- Each cat being permanently confined in an effective cage system on the property; and
- Under such terms and conditions that may be imposed by Council from time to time.

What can I do to help?

Sterilise your cat

The first litter is the main source of supply to the cat over population – 40% of cat owners deliberately have a first litter.

Sterilised cats are healthier, live longer and are less of a nuisance to the community. Free ranging un-sterilised male cats spraying on doors and cars are a nuisance to neighbours. Sterilised male cats wander less and their urine doesn't have a high hormonal odour.

Sterilised cats are marked with a tattoo in the ear to prevent further unnecessary surgery if the cat gets lost or finds a new home.

Confine your cat

Preferably cats should be confined to a pen or house at night – between dusk and dawn.

Identify your cat

Many lost or injured cats never find their homes simply because they have no identification. Microchipping is the safest form of identification for cats, which are then registered at a central computer database. Stretch collars, with an identification disc are suitable for most cats.

What can I do if I have a problem with a nuisance or feral cat?

Herbal Sprays

For non-feral cats causing a nuisance on your property, there are a number of deterrent sprays that are available through vets and pet stores.

There has been some success with herbal sprays made from chilli, garlic and water or the direct application of pepper to frequented areas.

All sprays must be reapplied on a regular basis or after the area has had contact with water.

Cat traps

For problem feral cats, you can use a humane cat trap. However strict guidelines from the **RSPCA** need to be followed. The RSPCA can be contacted on 9351 8377.

1. Traps should be set at night, as feral cats tend to stray more at night.
2. Prior to setting a trap, all neighbours must be notified and urged to keep their own cat indoors that night.
3. If a cat is trapped, ensure it does not belong to a neighbour before arranging for its disposal. A person who knowingly traps and disposes of an owned animal commits an offence, and police may lay charges of theft against the person.
4. A cat trapped in good, sick or injured condition can be taken to the **Cat Haven** Ph 9381 1574. The **RSPCA** will only attend and remove injured cats. A donation to any of these organisations is appreciated.

5. A trapped cat can be taken to a veterinarian who may levy a fee to arrange disposal of the cat.
6. It is **UNLAWFUL** for any cat to be:
 - taken and released into the bush or other place of abandonment.
 - poisoned or fed substances which may cause pain or suffering.
 - Drowned, gassed, clubbed or similarly injured or killed.
7. The Cat Haven can also arrange for the services of a Ranger who will visit your property and help trap the cat.

**** DISCLAIMER ****

This information sheet is a guide only. Verification with original Local Laws, Acts, Planning Schemes, and other relevant documents is recommended for detailed references. The City of Albany accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions.

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