

1.63 Wandering Cat Management Policy

Document Owner	Executive Director Corporate & Commercial Services
Responsible Officer	Manager Public Health & Safety
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Objective

It is acknowledged that the reproductive capacity of cats is such that putting additional resources into cat management is likely to make little impact on the total numbers and their distribution, other than in the immediate term without a coordinated approach.

Feral cats are the same species as domestic cats but survive in the wild without human reliance or contact.

Feral cats are a declared species under the [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#) (BAM Act).

Scope

This policy applies to land managed by the City of Albany.

Policy Statement

A. Management of cats found:

- A cat found without Cat Identification is to be administered as a feral cat following the prescribed guidance provided by the Department of Industries and Regional Development – Policy Statement - Feral cat declared pest – minimise risk to domestic cats.
- The exception is that if a cat under the age of 6 months is found on land zoned as “residential”, under the Local Planning Scheme, or as determined by the *Animals Local Law 2020*, the cat is to be transferred to an authorised Cat Management Facility.
- The operator of the Cat Management Facility is bound by the prescribed actions detailed at section 34 of the [Cat Act 2011](#).

B. Control of Feral Cats:

- Control of feral cats must be humane and undertaken in accordance with *the Animal Welfare Act 2002*.

Legislative and Strategic Context

Legislation, directives, guidelines, Acts or Regulations that provide the broad framework within which the policy operates and/or with which it needs to comply:

- [Animal Welfare Act 2002](#)
- [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007](#)
- [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013](#)
- [Cat Act 2011](#)
- [Local Government Act 1995](#)

This policy position also complements the [City of Albany Animals Local Law 2020](#) and existing controls that exist under the local planning scheme.

Dealing with unidentified and unclaimed cats is dealt with under the *Cat Act 2011*, extract follows:

Section 34. Dealing with unidentified and unclaimed cats

If —

(A) the operator of a cat management facility does not know the identity of the owner of a cat and fails to identify the owner within 3 working days of the cat entering the cat management facility; or

(B) the owner of a cat notified under section 32 has not reclaimed the cat within —

(i) 7 working days from the notice being given under that section; or

(ii) the holding period specified in the notice whichever is later; or

(iii) entering the cat management facility; or

(iv) entering the cat management facility; or

(v) the owner of a cat has surrendered the cat to the cat management facility, then the operator of the facility may —

(C) transfer the cat; or

(D) cause the cat to be destroyed in a humane manner.

Despite subsection (1), the operator of a cat management facility may cause any cat kept at the facility to be destroyed in a humane manner immediately —

(A) if the operator believes on reasonable grounds that the cat —

(i) is feral, diseased or dangerous; and

(ii) has caused or given, or is likely to cause or give, serious injury, or serious illness, to a person, another animal or itself; or

(B) in the circumstances, if any, prescribed.

The local law is also complimented by the Department of Industries and Regional Development – Policy Statement:

- Feral cat declared pest – minimise risk to domestic cats

Review Position and Date

This document is to be reviewed annually.

Associated Documents

Documents that have a bearing on this policy and that may be useful reference material for users of this policy are as follows:

- <https://www.dpir.wa.gov.au/businesses/pests-weeds-and-diseases/animal-pests-diseases/pest-mammals/feral-cat/>

Definitions

Key terms and acronyms used in the policy, and their definitions:

- **Cat Identification** means a registered tag or registered microchip as prescribed by the Cat Act 2011.
- **Domestic Cat** means a cat found with Cat Identification.
- **Feral Cat** means a cat found without Cat Identification.