



## The Law & Trapping of Cats

### ***Am I bound by law to confine my cat?***

No, you are not bound by law to confine your cat at this stage. However, Council strongly recommends for the benefit of your cat, your neighbours and local wildlife that you keep your cat indoors at night.

### ***Do I have to identify my cat with a collar or microchip?***

No, however cats without identification can be trapped either by the public or by Council and then can then be humanely disposed of. If your cat is unidentified and spends time outside, it is recommended that you identify your cat with a collar and/or microchip. Collars are available from most pet shops and supermarkets; a metal disk with a contact phone number will also help should your cat become lost. Cats with an implanted microchip sometimes have an "M" tattooed in one ear. Your vet or the Animal Welfare League (Phone: 8348 1300) can advise you.

### ***Can I be fined if I don't identify my cat or if my cat wanders from my property?***

Can owners have a responsibility to ensure their cat does not make a nuisance to their neighbours. Council may take action against a cat owner in relation to their cat becoming a nuisance under the Local

Government Act. If your neighbour's cat is becoming a regular nuisance, please contact Council to find out how Council may be of assistance to you. An unidentified cat may be trapped or caught and destroyed by an authorised organisation.

### ***How can I deter cats from coming into my yard?***

Many people claim cats can be repelled by scattering cayenne pepper, paprika, naphthalene flakes or camphor around the garden although the results of doing so have not been proven. Citronella, eucalyptus oil or Dettol mixed with biodegradable cat litter and scattered around the garden is useful or try dribbling some of these solutions onto a tea bag or two or even some cotton balls and leaving them scattered around your garden. Commercial repellents such as Get Off My Garden and Skunk Shot are helpful. Your local pet shop, garden shop or hardware store may stock these commercial repellents.

### ***Can I trap or catch stray cats?***

Yes. You can trap or catch an unidentified cat but you cannot enter another person's property to trap a cat without permission. Council Officers can advise you.

### ***Can I hire a cat trap from Council?***

Yes. Council has traps available **free** to residents for a maximum hiring period of two weeks, with a deposit of \$22 (\$11 concession). The deposit will be refunded in full if the trap is returned by the due date. If the cage is late back the deposit will be forfeited and there will also be a \$5.50 late fee for each day the cage is overdue. It is considered that if the cat has not been encouraged into the trap by this period it may be necessary to consider other deterrents. Residents requiring advice or assistance in obtaining traps should contact Council.

### ***Can I destroy or keep any unidentified cats I trap or catch?***

No. You must take the cat to a vet, the Animal Welfare League, or the RSPCA within 12 hours. The responsible organisation will dispose of the cat or



have it destroyed, once the cat has been checked for a microchip, usually at your expense.

***Can I bring a trapped cat to the Council or ask Council Officers to trap a cat?***

No. Council does not have facilities to hold or to destroy cats. However, in special circumstances ie. Elderly or disabled residents, Council Officers will set up traps and assist with collection.

***What must I do if I catch or trap a cat that has a collar or is tattooed with "M" in its ear?***

You must release the cat immediately. The penalty for removing or interfering with the identification is a maximum penalty of \$5,000.

***Use and booking of cat cages***

You may book a cat cage by telephoning Council on 87 521044.

There are two collection points and residents should identify their preference when making the booking. There is usually a waiting list for the cages, and your Customer Services Officer will advise the expected waiting time. The two locations are:

*Bordertown Council Office – 43 Woolshed Street*

*Bordertown Depot – Lot 10 Cleggett Road*

After use all cat cages must be returned to Bordertown Depot only between the hours of 8.00 am and 3.00 pm.

Please be sure to leave your name with the returned cage, as cat cages not returned after two weeks result in the loss of your deposit, and a possible late fee.

If the cage is very dirty, please hose clean before returning.

***Some Do's and Don'ts***

**Do:** check that you have not accidentally trapped an identified cat (eg. A cat wearing a collar or microchip).

**Don't:** enter another property unlawfully in order to trap a cat.

**Do:** talk to your neighbours about their cat entering your property prior to hiring a trap.

***Is the problem a possum?***

Council does hire possum traps. Different rules apply. (See Department for Environment and Heritage brochure entitled "Possums in your Roof")