

Feral Cat Management Program

Council's Program

Alexandrina Council supports responsible cat management within the community and has developed a community program to assist with the removal of feral and unowned cats within our community.

Alexandrina Council's feral cat management program has been designed to protect the welfare of owned and domestic cats whilst reducing the numbers of feral and unowned cats.

The program relies on involvement from the community to identify colonies of feral cats, loan a cat trap from Council and return the trap containing the cat to Council at a time agreed upon with a Cat Management Officer .

Council reserves the right to withhold this service at any time if:

- An Authorised Officer assesses that the welfare of any trapped cat may be compromised; or
- that the device will not be used for its intended purpose; or
- Councils cat management program is at full capacity

Hire conditions

Cat traps will not be issued for the purpose of capturing nuisance, domestic or neighboring cats.

Cat traps will only be loaned out for the genuine removal of a feral or unowned cat.

Trapped cats identified with a collar, microchip or any form of identification must be released immediately. Penalties apply for failing to release identified cats.

A Council Cat Management Officer can assist with determining if a captured cat is identified by microchip.

Cat traps must only be used on private property.

Cat traps can only be loaned out for a period of time negotiated with an Officer.

Cat traps will not be loaned for use during a weekend.

Trapped cats must not remain in a trap for any period of time exceeding 12 hours.

Trapped, feral or unowned cats must be managed in accordance with Councils Cat Management policy.

Responsible cat ownership

An important part of responsible cat ownership is clear identification of your cat, it is within every cat owners interest to have clear identification on your cat. Identification ensures that owned cats are returned to their owners as soon as possible and are not mistaken as being unowned.

Costs

Council does not charge for the loan of a trap, however waiting periods may apply.



Legislative requirements

Under the Dog and Cat management Act 1995, a cat will be taken to be identified if:

- the cat has a collar around its neck and the collar, or a tag securely attached to the collar, is marked with the current address or telephone number of the owner or other person entitled to possession of the cat; **OR**
- the cat has a microchip implanted in its body containing information that may be used to obtain the current address or telephone number of the owner or other person entitled to possession of the cat and has the letter M tattooed on the inside of either of its ears.

The Dog and Cat management Act 1995 also requires that:

- A person who seizes, detains, destroys or disposes of an identified cat under this Division must, as soon as practicable, take reasonable steps to inform the owner of the cat of the action taken.

Maximum penalty: \$250. Expiation fee: \$80.

Feral or unowned cats that are trapped can be euthanised in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Helpful Hints for capturing feral cats using a Council cat trap

Place the cat trap on a level surface in the area that you have witnessed most recent cat activity.

Place the trap in a corner or with the rear of trap against a wall. This will deter the cat from trying to access food from the back of the trap

For the first 3 to 5 days, it is beneficial to wire the trap open. This will give the cat confidence to feed in the trap. Once you are sure that the bait is being removed on a regular basis, arm the trap.

If you have an old blanket or towel, put this on the floor of the trap as it will hide the treadle plate. If you own a cat, the scent of old bedding etc will attract the unwanted cat. Do not allow this material to prevent the trap door from closing.

Use dried cat food concentrated in the rear of the trap. Wet food will attract ants and spoil the bait. Scatter more dried food in the area around the trap. Check the trap at least twice a day.

Use of traps for possums

All possums are protected by state law under National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985. Permits are necessary to trap, release or destroy possums.

Residents must obtain a "possum permit" from the Department of Environment and Heritage before trapping possums.

It is illegal to handle or interfere with any native animal, including possums without a permit and penalties apply.

For information on "Living with Possums" please visit the Department for Environment and Heritage website at www.deh.sa.gov.au

Alexandrina Council does not hire out cat traps for the capture and removal of possums within our district.

For further information, contact a Community Safety Officer at Alexandrina Council on 8555 7000 or visit our website at: www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au