



# FACT SHEET

## Cats

*A cat or kitten can be a rewarding pet, but there are certain responsibilities that come with ownership to ensure the wellbeing of your pet and to prevent a nuisance to neighbours.*



**Getting a new pet?** It is worth taking a moment to remember that any new pet will require love and care for many years to come. Will this pet fit your family and lifestyle, is your property suitable, can you afford veterinary care and desexing, have you got a plan for holiday care?

**What Laws apply?** The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* requires microchipping. Council's Local Law No. 2 prescribes minimum standards, maximum numbers and containment.

**Microchipping** All cats must be microchipped once they turn 12 weeks of age (unless born before 1 March 2010), and owners must ensure a cat is microchipped before being sold or given away. Microchipping will make your cat identifiable and ensure a quick reunion with you should your cat be lost, injured or impounded.

**Keeping Numbers** A maximum of 2 cats per property are permitted to be kept in a town area, unless a permit has been obtained for keeping more.

**Minimum Standards** Owners must meet the following minimum standards:

- Provide adequate shelter, food and water.

- All faeces and urine must be disposed of without causing nuisance.
- Food must be stored in a fly and vermin proof manner.
- Cats must not be allowed to roam at large – ensure your cat is contained to your property at all times. Roaming cats may be impounded. Please refer to Council's Enclosures Fact Sheet for further information.
- Any enclosure must be appropriately sized and kept in a clean and aesthetically acceptable condition.

**Desexing** Whilst desexing of pets is not currently required by law, it is highly recommended. This will make your cat more settled, less prone to causing a nuisance and reduce the number of unwanted kittens. Please note that cats can become pregnant from as young as five months of age. Your vet can help with further information.

**Benefits of Containment** As well as preventing nuisance, and protecting local fauna, keeping your cat within your property keeps them safe and minimises the risk of your cat contracting the Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) or transmitting diseases such as Toxoplasmosis or Campylobacter through leaving faeces in playgrounds or sandpits. Supply cats with toys and scratching poles to keep them occupied.

**Unwanted Cats** If you are no longer able to care for your cat or have unwanted kittens, please note that it is an offence to abandon any animal. Abandonment or releasing a domestic cat into the wild is harmful to the cat and to wildlife, and can result in nuisance to residents in the area. Please make all attempts to find an alternative home or arrange euthanasia through your vet. Council may accept animals for surrender for a fee if you have exhausted other options.