

Cat Local Law Survey 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the City conducting a survey about cats?

A: Local laws must be reviewed every eight years. The Cat Local Law is due for review in 2024, however, as many residents have concerns about cats not being controlled properly, the City has brought the review forward and is currently seeking resident's opinions about cat control.

Q: What will happen with the survey results?

A: The survey results will be presented to Council. If there is sufficient community support for changes to the Cat Local Law, an amended local law will be drafted. The amended local law would be made available for community feedback and subject to future reports to Council.

Q: Why is the City considering cat restrictions, when cats don't do any harm?

A: Cats are hunters by nature and they can harm birds and other native fauna. They also wander onto private properties where they may be unwelcome.

Q: Why should I keep my cat at home?

A: Keeping your cat on your property reduces the risk of your cat getting lost or injured, prevents nuisance behaviour that may affect your neighbours, and helps to protect local birds and fauna.

Q: Will the City start trapping cats?

A: Cat trapping is only done where a cat is a nuisance to a residential property and efforts to deter the cat have failed.

Q: Are you going to restrict the number of cats you can have?

A: No, the Cat Act allows three cats per property and the City considers each application for more than three cats on a case by case basis.

Q: Will you be restricting cats?

A: Any changes to the Cat Local Law will be advertised and you will be able to comment before any changes are made.

Q: Do I have to register my cat?

A: Yes, all cats must be registered, microchipped and sterilised. (Note: sterilisation is not required if a cat is specifically being kept for breeding by a registered cat breeder.)