

RESPONSIBLE PET
OWNERSHIP IN NILLUMBIK



You and your pet: **CATS**



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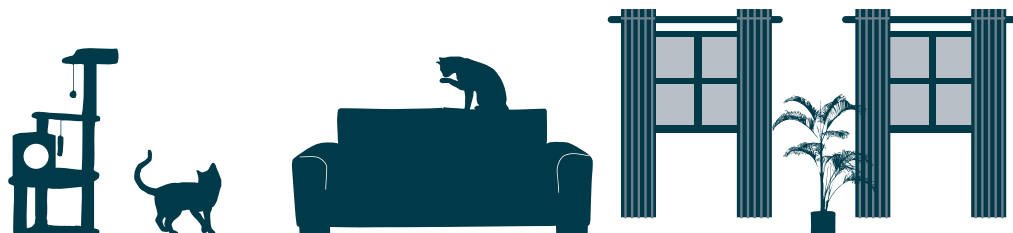
INTRODUCTION - BENEFITS OF OWNING A PET

There are many benefits of owning a cat; they give us company, affection and love.

A cat is a wonderful pet for a family, a single person and as we get older. In fact, many studies have shown that owning a pet can improve your health.

Psychological benefits include lowering levels of loneliness and depression and increasing social support and interaction.

This guide has been produced as part of Council's commitment to encouraging responsible pet ownership in Nillumbik and is intended to assist you in caring for your pet and your community.



RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

The decision to obtain a cat is a decision that could affect your life for up to 15 years or more.

Obtaining a pet

To assist with this important decision, you can seek advice from:

- Select-a-pet
www.petnet.com.au
- Libraries and pet shops which contain breed books
- Vets – check your local directory
- Nillumbik Shire Council,
9433 3111
www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Contact Council for information on owning pets in rental accommodation.



Registering your cat with Council

Every cat three months of age and more must be registered with Council and renewed each year by 10 April.

Council cannot accept a new registration for a cat that has not been implanted with a microchip and cannot accept a registration for a cat that has not been desexed.

This includes previously registered cats that move into the Shire of Nillumbik or from another municipality.

The importance of identification and registration of your pet cannot be stressed highly enough.

To register your pet, contact Council on 9433 3111 or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Permanent identification (microchipping)

To help Council reunite you with your lost pet, identification in the form of a registration tag, name tag, and more recently, a microchip is essential.



Council is proud to offer a discounted microchipping service, which occurs at the Civic Centre in Greensborough.

For further information or to make a booking, contact the Lost Dogs' Home National Pet Register on 1300 734 738.

Keeping your contact details current with the National Pet Register 1300 734 738, Central Animal Records 9706 3187 and Council will ensure a speedy return of your pet.

Please note: Microchipping does not include Council Registration which is due on 10 April each year.

What you get for your registration fees

- A Council identification marker (pet registration tag) for your pet to wear on its collar.
- Lost and found service; a guarantee that if your pet is found wearing the Council identification marker you will be notified.
- Council services to respond to calls about wandering dogs or dog attacks. This includes the removal of aggressive dogs from the streets.
- Council services to deal with nuisance problems. These services manage issues like barking dogs, cat trespass and un-owned animals.
- Council control of 'dangerous', 'menacing' and 'restricted breed' dogs in your area. This ensures they do not pose a threat to community.



- Council monitoring of pet shops, boarding kennels, catteries, pounds, shelters and pet breeding and training businesses. This ensures they meet basic animal welfare standards required by law.
- Victorian Government education program for schools. This program makes visits to all primary schools in Victoria, teaching safety with dogs and how to be a responsible pet owner. For information, visit www.pets.info.vic.gov.au .
- Victorian Government education program for preschools, teaching children and parents how to avoid dog attacks in the home and public places.
- Victorian Government education program for adults, which promotes responsible ownership and provides advice and information.
- Victorian Government research into dog and cat welfare and control issues. This includes research into preventing dog attacks.

For more information, visit www.pets.info.vic.gov.au .

Council also provides:

- activities to encourage dog owners to pick up dog faeces in public places, this includes education, administration of fines and providing bins in parks
- signs for on-leash and off-leash areas and patrols to check that dog owners comply
- education to prevent dog attacks
- education on how to be a responsible pet owner
- the annual Nillumbik Pet Expo.

Desexing and immunisation

Desexing your pet is extremely important. In females it prevents overbreeding and reduces the risk of breast cancer and significantly reduces aggressive, dominant, territorial and sexual behaviour in males.

Immunisation protects your cat from contracting and spreading diseases such as Feline Aids.

Contact your local vet for a guide to the vaccinations required to keep your pet healthy.



Owning multiple pets

To ensure the welfare of your pets, it is important that they are kept in a healthy environment. It is also important that neighbours are not inconvenienced by pets. For these reasons, permits are required when there are more than a certain number of dogs or cats kept in a household.

Within the Shire of Nillumbik, you require a permit to keep more than two dogs or two cats on a property.

To apply to keep multiple pets on your property, visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au and download an application form or contact Council 9433 3111.

Annual Nillumbik Pet Expo

The Annual Nillumbik Pet Expo is a popular pet event held each year on the last Sunday of October.

It is a day for pets and pet owners to enjoy activities, see displays by working dog breeds and a range of different animals to consider as pets.

It takes place at Marngrook Oval, Main Street Diamond Creek (Melway 12 A5) from 10am-4pm.

For further information, visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or contact Council on 9433 3111.



Nillumbik Regional Pound

The Nillumbik Regional Pound is for dogs and livestock only.

The Cat Protection Society at 200 Elder Street, Greensborough, takes care of cats impounded in the Shire of Nillumbik.

If you have lost or found a cat, contact the Cat Protection Society on 9434 7155 or Council on 9433 3111 or nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Visit Council's website for daily updates on impounded animals, www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.



Enriching your pet's environment

In the home, environmental enrichment can include simple toys and chewing or scratching objects for your pet.

When designing your home, spare a thought for the pet that may spend day after day there without you.

Speak to animal behaviourists and trainers for suggestions to minimise the possibility of future problems.

Boarding kennels and catteries

Boarding kennels and catteries currently registered with Council as Domestic Animal Businesses include:



- **Cottage Kennels** 9436 1531
248 Yan Yean Road, Yarrambat
- **Diamond Jewel Cattery** 9436 1521
24 Ashley Road, Yarrambat
- **Gumnut Kennels/Cattery** 9436 1480
87-93 Ashley Road, Yarrambat
- **Kimlai Cattery** 9436 1777
48 Collins Lane, Diamond Creek
- **Kybrooke Kennel/Cattery** 9719 7300
835 Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Road, Panton Hill
- **Pampered Pooch** 9436 1252
32-34 Ashley Road, Yarrambat
- **Rilten Kennels** 9436 1494
80-94 Ashley Road, Yarrambat
- **Sparrows in the Treetops** 9436 1307
72-78 Ashley Road, Yarrambat
- **Welcome Kennel/Cattery** 9436 2240
605 Yan Yean Road, Yarrambat



CARING FOR YOUR CAT

Being a responsible pet owner means caring for your cat and understanding your pet's needs.

Choosing a cat

There are a number of things that must be considered when choosing a cat.

Ask yourself

- Do you want a pure-bred cat? You can contact the Feline Control Council for the names of reputable breeders.
- Will you get a kitten?
- How about an older cat?

Animal welfare centres and cat protection societies have healthy kittens as well as older cats that are lost or abandoned by their previous owners.



When choosing the type of cat to suit your needs, consider the amount of time the animal will be alone, the time you can commit to grooming and care, whether there are native birds and animals in your area and whether you will have an enclosure for your cat.

In general, fine-boned oriental breeds are very active companions while the larger heavy-boned breeds tend to be more sedate and less inclined to hunt and wander.

Feeding

To maintain your cat's health and wellbeing it must have a balanced diet. Cats must have a meat-based diet, however, fresh meat alone, or with milk and table scraps is not a balanced diet for your cat.



Because kittens have different requirements to adult cats, scientifically formulated kitten food, in canned or dry form, is available.

Until the age of 20 weeks, kittens should be fed three times a day.

Gradually increase the amount of kitten food as required; at 20 weeks you can reduce the number of meals per day to two.

At around six to eight months your kitten will be approaching adulthood and it can be introduced gradually to adult cat food. Cats prefer their food at room temperature; any stale food should be thrown out.

Fresh water should be available to your cat at all times.

Health care

When you purchase your cat, find out if it has been vaccinated and ask for its vaccination certificate.

If your kitten has not been vaccinated take it to your local veterinarian to receive a health check and its vaccinations for feline enteritis and feline respiratory disease (cat flu).

It will need two vaccinations, the first at six to nine weeks of age and the second at 12-16 weeks. These vaccinations must be repeated every 12 months.



If you are not sure if your adult cat is vaccinated, it will need two vaccinations four weeks apart then an annual booster.

Cats may suffer from roundworm, hookworm, tapeworm and lungworm. Regular worm treatment beginning at six weeks of age will control worm problems.

Cats can pick up parasites by eating raw meat, including wild birds and animals. In some cases these parasites may be passed onto humans.

To prevent infection of your cat, feed it commercially prepared dry or moist food, keep it confined between dusk and dawn, and ensure it has a collar with a bell.

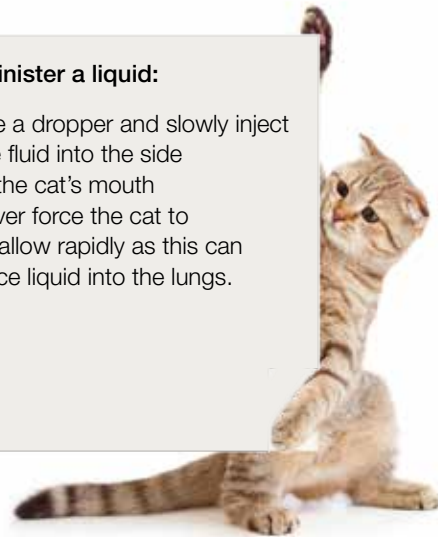
Cats can be kept free of fleas by wearing a flea collar or contact your local vet for advice. Ticks can also cause a skin irritation on cats. Paralysis ticks in parts of Australia can be fatal to cats.

To give a tablet to your cat:

- gently tilt the cat's head back with one hand
- with the other hand hold the tablet between the thumb and forefinger and use your middle finger to push the cat's lower jaw downward
- drop the tablet down the cat's throat, quickly shut its mouth and hold it closed until it swallows.

To administer a liquid:

- use a dropper and slowly inject the fluid into the side of the cat's mouth
- never force the cat to swallow rapidly as this can force liquid into the lungs.



HOW TO FIND A LOST PET

It can be distressing for pet owners and your pet if it goes missing. This is when pet registration and permanent identification is vital as it provides a greater chance for Council to reunite you with your lost pet.

If your pet is lost:

1. Conduct a thorough search of your property and neighbourhood

- Look outside, under your house, under bushes and in sheds.
- Ask neighbours if they have seen your pet (door knock or letter box drop leaving a contact number).
- Place notices in prominent positions around the local area in milk bars and shops.
- Take long walks through the neighbourhood and call your pet. Search public buildings, reserves, parks, schoolyards, rivers, creeks and building works in the vicinity.

2. Contact Council and other animal welfare organisations

Nillumbik Regional Pound

9433 3111
290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty
Open 7 days, 8am-11am

- Visit Council's website for daily updates on impounded animals. It is also worthwhile contacting and visiting the Cat Protection Society, 200 Elder Street, Greensborough; phone 9434 7155. www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
- Enquire with as many organisations as possible no matter how far reaching, in case your pet has been picked up by car and taken to an organisation or animal shelter in another suburb or town.





- If the organisations you call do not currently have your pet, leave a description of it, as well as details of when and where it was lost, and your name and contact number.

If making personal visits to animal shelters (recommended wherever possible) bring a dog or cat carrier, registration papers, vaccination certificates, photos etc.

- You may need to make repeat visits to these organisations. *(Please see the next page for a list of these organisations.)*

3. Place notices in the newspaper

Place notices in the “Lost and Found” section of local, state, daily and weekly newspapers.

Animal welfare organisations include:



Neighbouring council pounds

- **Banyule City Council**
RSPCA Pound Facility
9224 2222
3 Burwood Highway
East Burwood
www.banyule.vic.gov.au

Cat Protection Society
9434 7155
200 Elder Street
Greensborough
www.catprotection.com.au
- **Manningham Pound**
9840 9376
Corner Blackburn and Warrandyte Roads, Doncaster
Open Monday to Friday,
8am-10am and 3pm-5pm
Saturday and Sunday 9am-12pm
www.manningham.vic.gov.au
- **Whittlesea Pound**
9408 7356
335 O’Herns Road, Epping
Open Monday to Saturday,
10am-3.30pm
Sunday and Public Holidays
9am-11.30am
www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- **Darebin City Council**
All dogs picked up by Darebin City Council go directly to:

Lost Dogs’ Home
9329 2755
2 Gracie Street, North Melbourne
Open 10am-5pm daily
www.dogshome.com



Local vets

- **Diamond Creek Veterinary Hospital**
9438 1183
- **Hurstbridge Vet Clinic**
9718 1515
- **Eltham Vet Clinic**
(corner Mt Pleasant Road)
9439 8650
- **Montmorency Veterinary Hospital**
9435 1833
- **Eltham Central Vet Clinic**
9439 1111
- **North Warrandyte Vet Clinic**
9844 0781
- **St Helena**
9435 1004
- **Greensborough**
9435 3333



Other contacts

- **RSPCA**
East Burwood, 9224 2222
- **Lort Smith Animal Hospital**
North Melbourne, 9328 3021
- **Australian Animal Protection Society**
Keysborough, 9798 8044 or
9798 8415
- **Blue Cross Animal Society**
Wonga Park, 9722 1265
- **Victorian Animal Aid Trust**
Kilsyth, 9739 0300
- **Peninsula Animal Aid (RSPCA)**
Pearcedale, 5978 6811
- **Geelong Animal Welfare Society**
Moolap, 5248 2091
- **Missing Animals Bureau**
Ashburton, 9885 3603
- **Missing Pets Line**
Werribee, 9748 5350
- **VicRoads Road Patrol Depots**
To obtain the phone number for
local depots, call 9854 2666.

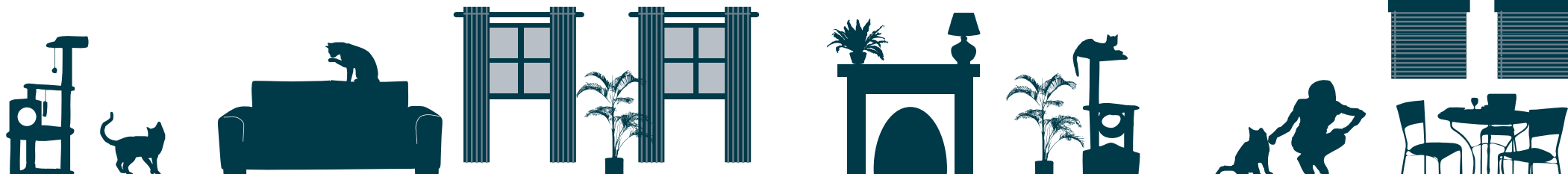
FIRE AND YOUR PET

When we live in an area prone to bushfires, we must be prepared to do all we can to protect life and property. Much has been written about protection of property and human life but very little has been written about the preparations you can make to help those other, much loved members of your family – your pets.

Forward planning

Prepare an evacuation box including:

- **Food and water bowls:** ice cream containers or plastic take away food containers are cheap and effective.
- **A small amount of food:** dry food is best for cats and dogs but don't forget food for other pets, for example birds and fish.
- **Medication:** this is critical for dogs on daily heartworm tablets or if your pet requires regular medication.
- **Litter or newspapers:** put this in the bottom of your pet's carry cage, as it may be confined to the cage for a long period.
- **An information list:** your name, address and phone numbers (including a mobile number and the number of a friend or relative who is not in a threatened area) as well as your pet's name, vaccination history, medical information and food requirements and your vet's phone number.



Identification and planning

Make sure your pets are identified with a tag and/or a microchip and are registered with Council. This increases the chance of you and your pet being reunited if you become separated.



Prepare for travel

Get your animals used to travel from an early age. Make sure both cats and dogs are taken on regular car journeys to ensure they are relaxed in the car, used to being restrained and do not get car sick.

Vaccination

Make sure your pet's vaccinations are current at all times. If you have to evacuate, your pet may need to be boarded where vaccination is mandatory. At an evacuation centre where animals may be congregating, your pet may be exposed to disease.

Transportation and confinement

Ensure you have the necessary means to restrain or confine your pet. Remember your pet will be frightened and may panic.

- **Dogs** will need leads and collars, also check chains and harnesses. If your dog is aggressive you may also need a muzzle.
- **Cats, rabbits and guinea pigs** need a secure cage. If this is not available, a pillowcase (tied firmly) or an overnight bag (firmly shut) can be used.
- **Birds, ferrets and mice** need to be moved in their cages or in small boxes with small air holes.
- **Fish** may be transported in a large jar, with a wide neck and a secure lid, filled two thirds with water. Include a plastic straw so you can blow air into the water periodically.

- **Snakes and lizards** may be transported in a container with a tight fitting lid with air holes in the top or a firmly closed pillowcase or overnight bag.
- **Frogs** will need a small covered tub with two centimetres of water in the bottom – remember to put air holes in the top.
- If **horses, sheep and goats** are to be transported, make sure that the float or trailer is in good working condition.

On days of high fire risk

If you have to go out or go to work on a day of high fire risk, decide whether to take your animals to a safer place before leaving home.

Remember, in case of fire, you may not be allowed back to your home to rescue your animals.



Evacuation

If you are at home, shut your pets inside the house so that they are on hand if you need to evacuate. Ensure you have means of restraint or confinement ready to use. Check that your evacuation box is ready. See page 17.

If you decide to evacuate, make your decision early. Remain calm. Handle your pets firmly but gently and keep reassuring them. Restrain dogs and confine all other animals.

Cover pet carry cages with a woollen blanket or a wet towel and secure all pets in the car. Remember to take your evacuation box.

If fire threatens while you are driving, stay *in the car* with your pets. Cover yourself and your pets with woollen blankets and stay below the level of the windows.



If your animals must stay

Your options depend on the size and type of property on which the animals are kept, but the following has been suggested by Community Fireguard group members.

For horses, sheep and goats

- Identify the 'safest' paddock on your property or a nearby property, for example, with a large dam with clear access to it or a paddock closely grazed with minimal fuel to carry a fire.
- Look at your fencing. If it is electric, what happens if the power goes off or the fence is burnt?
- Consider fencing the 'safe' paddock with steel or concrete posts only, i.e. make it fire proof.
- Consider putting gates on internal property boundaries so stock can be readily moved to other areas without needing to take them on the roads.
- If you are working during the day, consider moving stock into the safe area the night before a Total Fire Ban day.
- If possible, thoroughly water the safe area the night before a Total Fire Ban day.

For poultry and aviary birds

These animals will be affected by smoke. Make a 'curtain' out of hessian to fit around the cage. Drop the curtain sides to cover the cage and wet down.



CAT CONFINEMENT

There are several important reasons why your cat should be confined indoors at night (or even better) – live indoors permanently!

Why should I confine my cat?

1. Improved cat health, safety and longevity

Around 80% of accidents involving cats occur at night. Cats allowed to roam can be killed or injured through car accidents and fights with other animals.

They may contract fatal diseases such as Feline AIDS or be more likely to require veterinary attention for fleas, ticks, worms, abscesses, cuts, diarrhoea and other illnesses.

They may also get lost or join an un-owned cat colony. For these reasons, cats kept inside at night generally live at least three times longer than cats which are not confined.

The safety benefits are even greater for cats kept inside or in an enclosure both day and night.

2. Better neighbourhood relations

By keeping your cat indoors, it will not be able annoy neighbours by spraying and howling.

Roaming cats also cause disputes and anxiety between neighbours by causing dogs to bark, by fighting with other cats and defecating in gardens.

3. Less predation of wildlife

Cats are most active at night, particularly at dusk and dawn. This coincides with the activity periods of many species of native wildlife.

If given the opportunity, cats will instinctually hunt and kill wildlife, even if they are not hungry. Keeping your cat indoors will help protect our Australian wildlife.



4. Compliance with laws

Nillumbik Shire Council has an order requiring cats to be confined during specified hours, 7.30pm and 6am and restricts the presence of cats in certain public areas (e.g. parks or reserves).

In addition, if your cat repeatedly enters private property without permission, the landowner or occupier has the right to take action to stop your cat trespassing, under section 23 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Are cats happy indoors?

Yes! If you provide for all their needs (see next section for details), desexed cats are happy to live in a suitable enclosed area.

Contrary to popular belief, cats do not have an 'innate' need to roam; they simply require opportunities for exercise and play as well as around 19 hours of sleep per day.

Many city cats become better pets and enjoy long, healthy and contented lives inside a house or flat 24 hours a day.



Where do I confine my cat?

There are several options for confining your cat.

- Simply keep your cat inside the house or flat with you. Confine your cat at night in the shed or garage.
- Build a cat enclosure for your yard. You can build an A-frame enclosure with chicken wire or adapt an aviary into a cat enclosure. Alternatively you can enclose a veranda or the section of garden between the house and fence with chicken or fly wire. Cat access to the house can be provided via a window or cat door.
- Buy a cat enclosure (solid or net) or modular cat park for your yard.
- Build a cat-proof boundary fence around your property. Attach small gauge chicken wire or aluminum flashing to the top of existing fences and angle it into your property, so the cat has difficulty jumping over.
- Remember to secure any trees that may overhang the fence by either enclosing them with wire or erecting a 'cat barrier' at a suitable height up the tree.



What are my cat's needs when confined?

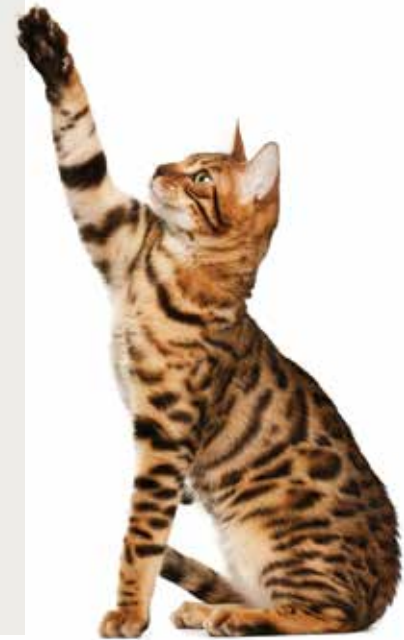
For overnight confinement, you will need an area that is cosy and dry, as well as being well ventilated and draught free. Your cat will need a bed, food, water and a litter tray.

For longer periods, it is vital to provide an enriched environment. Cats are naturally curious and playful and love to explore. If these needs are not met, they may become bored and destructive and develop behavioural problems.



The following should be provided for all cats that live indoors or in an enclosure:

- **climbing post** – up to 2.5 metres tall, with two to three perches. Cats love to jump and climb, so you must provide them with some high surfaces (preferably in the sun)
- **scratching post for sharpening claws** – most cats can be attracted to the post with catnip
- **toys** – balls, scrunched paper, toy rats and mice, soft toys etc. Cats particularly enjoy toys attached to elastic and suspended above them
- **sunshine** - cats love to lie in the sun and sleep or watch the world go by. Provide an outside area for sun baking if possible. Window ledges and bay windows or even a chair next to a high window, are excellent vantage points
- **hiding places** – to play and sleep in. Try cardboard boxes, paper bags and other cubby holes
- **grass for chewing** (e.g. oats, wheat, ryegrass) Non-toxic varieties only!
- **companionship** – plenty of owner contact or another cat for company
- **exercise** – encourage your cat to play. You can also train your cat to walk on a harness and leash with you outside (see next page for details).



Training your cat or kitten to accept confinement

Kittens are easy to train to stay inside because they don't know anything else and subsequently will have no inclination to roam the streets.

It can be more difficult to train an adult cat to stay indoors if it is used to living outside. However, with patience and understanding, it can usually be achieved in a few weeks.

If your cat is not already desexed, spaying or neutering it will also help decrease its desire to wander (as well as make it a more pleasant companion!).

The first step is to keep your cat inside at night. Food, comfort and warmth are major driving forces in a cat's life. Skip your cat's morning feed and call it in at the end of the day to be fed. Don't feed your cat until it comes inside.

Cats learn quickly that they don't get fed unless they are home by dusk. Once the cat is inside, do not let it out again until the next morning. Ensure the cat has its essential needs met (e.g. food and litter) and plenty of owner contact.

Your cat may indicate it wants to go outside again for the evening as it has done previously. However, it will start to adjust to its new routine after a few nights, and generally speaking, most cats will come to prefer the warmth and comfort of confinement at night, particularly during the winter months.

If you wish to train your cat to stay inside all the time, gradually start to increase the period spent indoors once your cat has adjusted to night confinement. In this case, environmental enrichment is even more important (see earlier section for details).

Access to sunshine or an outside area for exercise may be more important for a cat that was once accustomed to living outdoors.

In very difficult cases, it may be necessary to use tranquilizers for a short period to allow adjustment and modification of your cat's behaviour. Consult your veterinarian for further information.

Training your cat or kitten to walk on harness and leash

Training your cat or kitten to a harness will allow you to safely take it outdoors for exercise. The earlier you can begin training the better.

Walking your cat with a harness is preferable, as cats can slip out from a collar too easily. Ensure you purchase the correct size harness (measure your cat beforehand), which also includes a metal ring for attaching identification.

Place the harness and leash in an area where the cat can sniff, paw and play with them.

After several days, put the harness on the cat (without the leash) allowing for two finger width at the stomach and neck. Leave the harness on for five minutes initially.

Repeat this as often as possible, until the cat gets used to wearing the harness. Then (under supervision) attach the leash and again, allow the cat to get used to it.

Finally, pick up and hold the leash, encouraging the cat to accept the restraint and "come" when called. Use food as a reward for appropriate behaviour throughout the harness training process.

When outside, try to follow the cat where it wishes to go, rather than 'take it on a walk' as you would a dog.

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* provides landowners and occupiers with a means to address the nuisance caused by cats entering private property without permission.



TRESPASSING CATS

Owned or un-owned cats can trespass on private property and cause considerable nuisance by spraying or defecating in gardens, fighting, making noise through calling and crying or attacking wildlife.

Does Council have cat confinement requirements?

1. Nillumbik Shire Council has an order under section 26 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. A section 25 order requires cat owners to keep their pets confined to the property during specified hours, 7.30pm and 6am everyday.
2. Under the section 26 order owned or un-owned cats found on your property **during the times specified by the order** may be trapped. You **must immediately notify Council** when you have trapped a cat and Council will then impound it.
3. Unidentified cats trapped and impounded under a section 26 order will be held for eight days (unless they are wild, uncontrollable or diseased, in which case they may be euthanased). If unclaimed, they may then be sold or euthanased.
4. Owners of identified cats trapped under a section 26 order will be notified within four days of the cat's impoundment. The cat will be held for eight days, during which time it can be reclaimed by the owner (impounding fees and offence provisions will apply). If unclaimed after eight days, it may be sold or euthanased.

You may hire pressure plate traps from Council to conduct trapping yourself or a Council officer may do it for you (see 'Preparation for Trapping Cats').

Using section 23 to address cat nuisance on private property

1. If the nuisance doesn't occur between the specified hours under the order, Council may use the procedure under section 23 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* to address the problem.
2. Under section 23, it is an offence for a cat to remain on private property without permission. Landowners or occupiers may trap cats (both owned and un-owned) found trespassing on their property.
3. Where a cat has been trapped on a private property under section 23, the **owner/occupier must immediately notify the Council** of the municipal district in which the property is situated (or organisation operating the Council's pound).
4. Unidentified cats trapped under section 23 will be held by Council for eight days (unless they are wild, uncontrollable or diseased, in which case they may be euthanased). If unclaimed, they may then be sold or euthanased.
5. If the trapped cat is identified, Council will record its registration or identification details, before the cat is released or returned to the owner.

Within five business days, Council will serve the owner with a notice of objection to the presence of that cat on the private property. The landowner/ occupier of the private property will receive a copy of this notice within 24 hours of it being served.
6. If, after a notice of objection has been served, the cat again enters or remains on private property without permission, the owner of the cat is guilty of an offence.

The cat may be impounded and the owner will be notified within four days of impoundment. When the cat is returned to the owner, impounding fees will apply (and an infringement notice or court summons may be issued). If the cat is not reclaimed by the owner within eight days, it will be sold or euthanased.



Preparation for trapping cats

1. Some trespassing cats may be friendly and approachable and you may simply be able to note their registration/ identification details or put them in a cat carrier and transport them to the pound. Other cats, particularly if they are un-owned, will require trapping.
2. Council will tell you whether you can hire a trap or whether you will need to make an appointment for a Council officer to conduct the trapping.

If hiring a trap, **you will be responsible for the welfare of the cat involved** and will need to follow a basic cat trapping protocol to ensure the cat's welfare (Council will provide more information on this when you pick up the trap).

3. Prior to trapping (by Council or yourself), you must feed the cat in the same place at the same time daily (preferably in the shade). While trapping is most effective if done just before dusk, the cat may have to be fed during working hours if the final trapping date cannot be scheduled for an evening.

Furthermore, if trapping under a section 26 order, you will have to ensure feeding and trapping occur only within the **hours specified by the order**.

Once the feeding routine is established, contact Council to make an appointment for trapping or to hire a trap yourself. If hiring a trap, Council will provide you with detailed information on the relevant procedure and protocol.

The cat **must not be fed for 24 hours prior to trapping** to ensure it is sufficiently hungry to enter the trap for food.



WHO'S FOR CATS?

Each year in Victoria, around 50,000 are impounded. Sadly, 35,000 of those are euthanased due to poor health or because homes cannot be found for them.

Many people – often well-intentioned people demonstrating genuine cat care – feed un-owned cats not realising that by doing so they are contributing to the feral and stray cat population.

The *Who's for Cats?* Campaign, is calling for all people who feed un-owned cats to either take ownership of the cat or take it to their local pound or shelter.

For advice on responsible pet ownership, which includes the registration, microchipping and desexing of the pet, contact Council on 9433 3111.

For further information on *Who's for Cats?*, visit www.whosforcats.com.au or call 136 186.

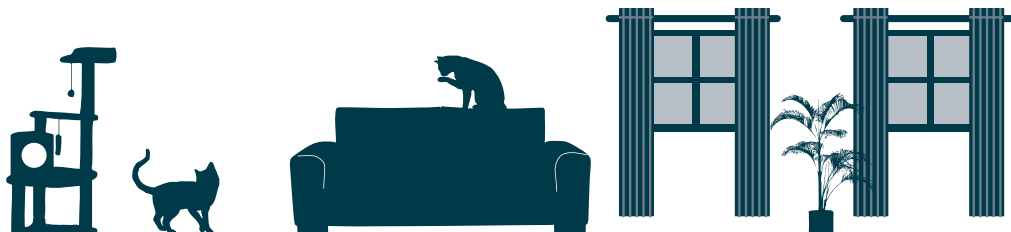




Further information

This booklet has been produced by Regulatory Services, Nillumbik Shire Council.

The information contained in this booklet is intended to be used as a guide.
In the event you require clarification, contact Council.





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