



**Australian
Institute
of Animal
Management**

Overview of Australian Local Government domestic cat management strategies

presented by

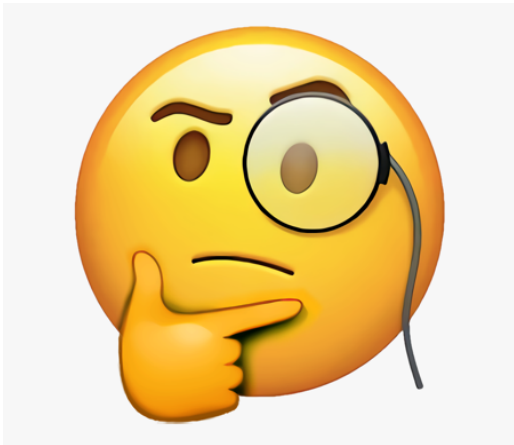
Nell Thompson (AIAM Secretary)

THE REQUEST – can AIAM provide an overview of what is happening with domestic cat management in the Local Government space?





This issue is consistently identified, by AMO's and Councils, as being **THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE** that faces companion animal management in Australia!





This presents such a wonderful opportunity to ask so many **INTERESTING** questions



THE CAT CONTINUUM



WHO RESPONDED?





Dear Neighbour,

I would like to inform you that your cat has been seen wandering around the neighbourhood and has been attending my property causing a nuisance.

Brisbane City Council has provided this letter to assist in mutually resolving the matter. I have decided to let you know about your cat, before making a complaint to Brisbane City Council as I am sure you would like the opportunity to resolve this matter yourself.

The *Animals Local Law 2017* states that an owner of a cat has a duty to provide an enclosure and prevent the cat from wandering. There are penalties associated with wandering cats, you may receive a fine and the cat may be impounded at an Animal Rehoming Centre if collected by Council.

I understand that you may not know that your cat is wandering and hopefully this letter informs you of your responsibility as a responsible pet owner.

Details of Wandering Cat (Dates, times, location, nuisance)

To find out more about wandering cats and the Animals Local Law 2017, please visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au or contact Brisbane City Council on (07)3403 8888.

Kind Regards,

Name:

Address (optional):

TRAPPING IS POPULAR



ADMITTED TO POUND / SHELTER





BEHAVIOURAL ASSESSMENT



“OBVIOUS” PET CATS ARE GIVEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE

Refine your search ▾

Search for a pet ▾

Toby 🔍

Search →

Species ▾

- Cats (2810) ✕
- Dogs (895)
- Other Pets (320)


State ▾

- ACT (234)
- NSW (818)
- NT (149)
- QLD (985)
- SA (193)
- TAS (123)
- VIC (502)
- WA (467)


☒ Include pets available for interstate adoption

Pets near me within ▾


10km ▾ of Postcode




Delilah
♥ Domestic Short Hair Cat
Looking for love
↑ Ingleside, NSW
Interstate adoption unavailable




Athena
♥ Domestic Short Hair Cat
Looking for love
↑ Ingleside, NSW
Interstate adoption unavailable



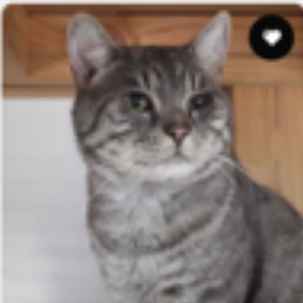
Astro
♥ Domestic Short Hair Cat
Looking for love
↑ Ingleside, NSW
Interstate adoption unavailable




Chia
♥ Domestic Short Hair Cat
Looking for love
↑ Ingleside, NSW
Interstate adoption unavailable




Libby
♥ Domestic Short Hair Cat
Looking for love
↑ Ingleside, NSW
Interstate adoption unavailable



Frank
♥ Domestic Short Hair Cat
Looking for love
↑ Ingleside, NSW
Interstate adoption unavailable



Taz
♥ Domestic Short Hair Cat
Looking for love
↑ Ingleside, NSW
Interstate adoption unavailable



Macadamia
♥ Domestic Short Hair Cat
Looking for love
↑ Ingleside, NSW
Interstate adoption unavailable

MICROCHIPPED CATS GOT VET CARE



PROVISION OF SUPPORT

Can't afford to desex your cat?



**Do you have a pregnant cat or an accidental
litter of kittens?**

Join our Welfare League Queensland's National Desexing Network, Hornsby Shire Council
and participating vets are here to help those in need.

**HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL
DESEXING PROGRAM***

FEMALE CAT \$65 MALE CAT \$55

ADDITIONAL FEMALE CATS \$10

Cats should be desexed from 2 to 3 months old as they can become
pregnant from just 4 months old.

Call: 1300 368 992

*Hornsby Shire Council members only. For more info, please email: community@hornsby.nsw.gov.au



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Animal Welfare
Fund QLD



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LEAST EFFECTIVE



Trap neuter release of healthy cats back to the site where they were trapped from to be cared for by carers – which is interesting as only 2 respondents said they used this cat management strategy

Ad hoc trapping and euthanising of cats

Ad hoc trapping and adopting of cats

Support for semi-owners to find the owner of the cat and assist in desexing and taking ownership of the cat

Systematic program trapping and euthanising of cats

Support for semi-owners to desex and take ownership of cat

Mandatory cat desexing legislation

Systematic program trapping and adoption of cats

Low cost cat desexing programs

MOST EFFECTIVE

MOST CHALLENGING



Lack of funding/staff

Local community concern regarding nuisance and predation

State legislative requirements

Lack of public support for humane cat management strategies

Benefits of cats being desexed before 4 months of age not being well known or accepted

Local vets do not support low cost desexing

Cats are not valued (by who??)

General public objection to any cat management i.e. think they should be left alone and not managed

No local animal welfare group to work with

Councillors and/or managers negative attitudes towards cats


Nowhere to take trapped cats for adoption

LEAST CHALLENGING






?



COUNCILRESIDENTSBUSINESSCOMMUNITYFACILITIES

RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERSHIP




Two cats are permitted on a 600m² allotment and one cat on less than 600m² or multi-residential premises. A permit is required to keep three or more cats on a 600m² allotment, permits are available through council.

TIPS

- register and micro-chip your cat
- desex your cat
- regularly worm and vaccinate them
- always pick up after your cat.

REGISTER YOUR PET WITH COUNCIL

Hi, need help?

COULD WE HAVE A CASE OF...



WHAT DO YOU WANT?







Semi-owned and unowned cats consistently identified as problem



Current control methods are implemented largely in response to nuisance calls/complaints (reactive vs proactive)



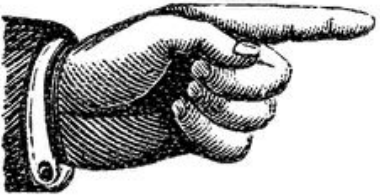
Focused largely on owned cats and encouraging people to take full ownership of semi-owned cats (without providing incentives/support)



Some councils using chips or cat age to determine sociability and adoptability



Control methods shown to work for reducing free-living cat numbers in other countries largely considered ineffective in Australia... why?



Biggest perceived barriers to implementing more proactive and effective controls are mostly functional (cost, legislation, access to resources)



Some appetite for more proactive management methods but TNR still not seen as a useful tool in Australia, regardless of location (e.g. urban/rural)

