



Nuisance Cats

Cat Act 2011

The *Cat Act 2011* requires the identification, registration and sterilisation of domestic cats. The Cat Act 2011 allows local government the power to administer and enforce the legislation.

The legislation will provide for better management of unwanted impacts of cats on the community and the environment, as well as encourage responsible cat ownership.

What are some of the Problems with Cats?

Nuisance and feral cats can cause neighbourhood problems such as noise, attacks on pet cats, marking territory and defecating in gardens and children's sand pits.

Cats are nocturnal (animals of the night). They will wander further at night. This behaviour leads to:

- 👉 Mating and territorial behaviour
- 👉 Cat disease and injuries through dog attacks, fighting and mating
- 👉 Preying on wildlife
- 👉 Increased chance of getting hit by a car

Also:

- 👉 Every year thousands of cats are surrendered to the RSPCA, only about a quarter of these cats/kittens are able to find suitable homes.
- 👉 Uncontrolled cats mating and fighting at night is a major source of noise complaint to councils.

Number of cats

The Cat Act 2011 and the Shire of Denmark Health local law section 5.2.4 permits 2 adult cats per property, over the age of 3 months. Specific approval is required for more than two cats.

A person who wishes to breed cats will require to complete an application to Council for written approval of Council, keep up to 6 adult breeding cats on a property in the district subject to:

- 👉 Each cat being permanently confined in an effective cage system on the property; and
- 👉 Council's terms and conditions that are required on the issuing of an approval to breed cats.

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What can I do to help?

Register your cat with the Shire of Denmark, your cat must be sterilised and microchipped.

Sterilised cats are healthier, live longer and are less of a nuisance to the community. Free ranging un-sterilised male cats spraying on doors and cars are a nuisance to neighbours. Sterilised male cats wander less and their urine doesn't have a high hormonal odour.

Sterilised cats are marked with a tattoo in the ear to prevent further unnecessary surgery if the cat gets lost or finds a new home.

Microchip Identify your cat

Many lost or injured cats never find their homes simply because they have no identification. Microchipping is the safest form of identification for cats, which are then registered at a central computer database. Stretch collars, with an identification disc are suitable for most cats.

Confine your cat

Preferably cats should be confined to a pen or house at night – between dusk and dawn.

What can I do if I have a problem with a nuisance or feral cat?

Herbal Sprays

For non-feral cats causing a nuisance on your property, there are a number of deterrent sprays that are available through vets and pet stores.

There has been some success with herbal sprays made from chilli, garlic and water or the direct application of pepper to frequented areas.

All sprays must be reapplied on a regular basis or after the area has had contact with water.

Traps

The Shire of Denmark has small animal traps that can be hired. Contact Ranger Services on 9848 0300 who can advise of the use of traps and the removal of the caught animal.

Shire of Denmark Fees and Charges visit Shire website;
http://www.denmark.wa.gov.au/media/uploads/files/2015-2016_Adopted_Fees_&_Charges.pdf

Should you require further information regarding this matter please contact Ranger Services by calling 9848 0300 or email enquiries @denmark.wa.gov.au