

Responsible Cat Ownership

Cat containment areas

Due to the risk cats pose to native wildlife, the ACT Government has declared cat containment areas in Bonner, Crace, Coombs, Denman Prospect, Forde, 'The Fair' at Watson, Lawson, Molonglo, Wright, Throsby, Jacka (as of 2017) and Moncrieff.

Residents within cat containment areas are required to keep their cats confined to their premises 24 hours a day. This can be achieved by confining cats to the house, or providing a purpose built cat enclosure on the premises.

Stray cats in these areas are able to be seized by staff from Domestic Animal Services and an infringement notice issued to the keeper or carer.

There is much evidence to suggest that cats confined to indoors can live longer, while also not causing harm to local wildlife or a nuisance to neighbours.



Example of a cat enclosure

De-sexing and micro-chipping

All cats in the ACT must be micro-chipped. Cats born after 21 June 2001 need to be de-sexed before they are three months old, unless the keeper of the cat holds a permit issued by the Registrar of Domestic Animal Services. For more information visit www.tams.act.gov.au



For more information visit www.tams.act.gov.au or call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

Responsible Cat Ownership

Cats are one of the most popular domestic companion animals and they form an integral part of our society. Cat policy in the ACT is aimed at ensuring the rights of domestic cats and their owners as well as providing the means by which cats are responsibly owned and managed so that they might not cause a nuisance or danger to the wider community and the environment.

Cats can present a threat to wildlife and a nuisance to neighbours if allowed to stray from the home. It is recommended that cat movements be restricted. You can reduce the risk to native wildlife by keeping your cat indoors, particularly between sunset and sunrise and by putting a bell on your cat's collar to provide a warning to other animals.

Cat identification

Cats need to wear identification such as a collar and tag with the owner's contact details so they can be returned if found. Cats are not required to be registered.

Keeping four or more cats

To keep four or more cats in the ACT you must have a multiple cat licence issued by DAS. Application forms can be obtained from DAS. A fee for a multiple cats licence is payable if the licence is granted.



De-sexing

De-sexing is essential to reduce the number of neglected or abandoned cats. It is an offence to own a sexually entire cat, except if:

- the cat is less than three months old;
- the cat was born before 21 June 2001; or
- the keeper of the cat holds a sexually entire permit issued by the Registrar of DAS.

Infringement notices can be issued for the above offence. De-sexing is essential to reduce the number of neglected or abandoned cats.

For information on sexually entire permits visit www.tams.act.gov.au/city-services/pets

Lost and found cats

Lost and found cat details are listed at www.tams.act.gov.au/city-services/pets

All cats found in the ACT are housed by the RSPCA who can be contacted on 6287 8100.