

## SURVEY QUESTIONS FOR CAT MANAGEMENT REFORM 2024

I will supply the C.A.T.S. Inc reason for the position we take in blue writing for the benefit of the reader here. You are not required to supply a reason on the survey , just tick the box, but further down there are 3 “Comments” boxes in the survey that give you an opportunity to state your opinion if you would like to. I have already given a template for you to copy or put into your own words. These boxes appear at the end of question 16, 17 and 19.

The first page is asking for your details...name, address etc. It is best not to disclose if you have a pet. This is a viable option they give you.

### 5. Application of Act (Section 9A)

This new section will be added to ensure other state legislation governing feral cat management can operate lawfully. Do you agree?

Tick boxes are given.

Please tick **“Strongly disagree”**

Other legislations include the Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) which outlines how best to injure, kill and eradicate cats, and the Biodiversity Plan and National Parks and Wildlife Act which support and give licence to TAP.

Animal equality prevents us from wanting to harm any sentient creature.

### 6. Power to destroy cat – Person authorized (section 63)

This section of the Act currently refers to “Warden” “Authorized Officer” and “Inspector” in relation to the National Parks and Wildlife Act...Amendments to this provision propose to broaden the language to recognise Contractors and other persons lawfully performing functions under these Acts. Do you agree?

**Strongly disagree**

No-one should be employed to execute cats. Those not government employed, or contractors, are one level removed from scrutiny.

### 7. Power to destroy cats – feral cat control (section 63)

Do you agree that the references to unidentified cats be removed to allow lawful cat control under the Crown Land Management Act 2009...bringing these laws in line with the National Parks and Wildlife Act?

**Strongly disagree**

We do not wish to destroy cats.

## 8. Power to destroy cats – distance from residence (section 63)

It is proposed to amend this section so that rural landowners more than 1 kilometre from a neighbour, can lawfully control feral cats on their property. Do you agree?

### Strongly disagree

Their reference to controlling cats means controlling cat numbers and hence killing them to keep the numbers down. We don't want to see any cats killed, no matter where they are. And as the Vacuum Effect will ensure that new cats move into the void after the killing, it is a fruitless endeavour and certainly not one which can be justified.

## 9. Power to destroy cats – regulation to set distance from residence (section 63)

A regulation to set specific distances proposed to allow lawful feral cat eradication programs in targeted environments. Do you agree.

### Strongly disagree

These targeted areas are non-specific

Targeted areas could include urban areas which have either colonies of desexed cats or high densities of desexed cats.

The government has yet refused to consider or grant exclusion zones to these areas and consider them fair game for eradication. We have requested exclusion zones from all State Ministers of Environment, and in South Australia have named the exclusion zones we specifically want with State Minister of Environment, the Federal Minister of Environment and the Officer of Endangered Species with no positive response as yet.

## 10. Power to destroy cats – amend power for council authorized person (section 63)

Amendment to section 63(2) propose to allow for circumstances in which authorized persons might destroy cats, to be provided in regulations. Do you agree.

### Strongly disagree.

Only cats that are beyond medical help should be euthanized

## 11. Power to seize and detain cats (section 64)

Currently anyone can seize an unidentified cat and deliver it to a facility for the care of cats as listed in the Act. Amendments are proposed to restrict the ability to seize and detain to authorized persons, persons performing functions or a person with the permission of the authorized person and to provide clarity on how seized and detained cats are managed.

### **Strongly disagree**

C.A.T.S. Inc relies on community members to detain unowned cats (through gaining their friendship usually by feeding - not necessarily through trapping) to take them to vets for desexing.

At the same time we don't want council officers to remove cats to pounds and shelters or for any reason other than for medical care. Unowned cats in shelters (and these make up the majority) with no owner to collect them will be euthanized.

### **12. Procedure following seizure of cat (Section 64AA)**

Currently there are no specific processes for managing cats that have been legally seized and detained. Amendments seek to improve the outcomes for seized and detained cats, establishing a similar arrangement for the long established process for dogs (return to owner if possible – scan for microchip, display notice) Do you agree

### **Strongly disagree**

Cats are not dogs – these 2 species cannot be managed in the same way which we have also repeatedly told government. Dogs outside of fence lines could well be lost, could well be triggered to attack a human. Not so for cats. They are neither lost nor seeking to attack humans but are patrolling their territories to keep out invader cats. Undesexed cats go looking for mates and here desexing is the answer not a round up to a shelter.

### **13. Detention time following the round up of a cat**

A minimum 72 hour detention period, the same as dogs, will be introduced to give the owners time to collect cats. Do you agree?

### **Strongly disagree**

72 hours is not sufficient time for the retrieval of these cats. Cats do not always turn up every night and it can be some time before the letterboxing, doorknocking and other methods owners engage in to find the cats, before they find the right shelter.

When shelters are filled to overflowing these minimum times are may also be ignored in any case. There should not be a time limit for any cat removed from their home territory unless it is beyond all medical help.

### **14. Destruction or disposal of seized cat (section 64A)**

Amendments propose to provide instruction to council in determining when to dispose of a seized cat. These processes are based on the processes for dogs. Councils may dispose of cats by rehoming. Councils may also utilize humane euthanasia when rehoming is not appropriate.

### **Strongly object**

There should be no destruction of cats unless they are beyond all medical help. They should not have been taken from their home territory **in the first place**. Behaviour tests are to ascertain whether a cat is tame and rehomingable, but many times a kitten or cat is just terrified and can behave extremely defensively. I lost my first rescue this way. I then decided to keep her brother, and he has been a beautiful pet.

### **15. Notice to an owner of a destroyed dog or cat (section 64 D)**

Draft amendments to section 64D are proposed to update the definition of the prescribed person for section 63 which are discussed earlier in this section.

### **Strongly disagree**

This is in reference to a cat in the open and not in a facility.

### **16. Do you want to comment in support of your response?**

You may use this information in the box to put into your own words

**In reference to destroying cats**, I request that the draft Threat Abatement Plan and the Biodiversity Acts, the National Parks and Wildlife Act and any other Acts in reference to cat culling be discontinued.

Cats are not responsible for wildlife demise as you want to suggest with your inaccurate figures. Scientists cannot cut cats open and examine stomach contents to accurately determine the amount every cat eats every day, right across Australia. This is unscientific. Cats may not find prey everyday so eat when they can. The prey may be bountiful one day and none the next day or two. There are many other variables - climate, diet preference, road kill, prey killed by another predator such as a dingo and the carcass left. And over how many cats do these average stomach content amounts get multiplied. They don't know how many cats there are, so they can't come up with anything accurate.

It is important to understand that land clearing for development is the problem, and the greatest part of this problem is the government's inability or unwillingness to admit to this fact. The ultimate enemy of wildlife is the government, firstly with its attitude towards land clearing, and its unwillingness to police clearing on private land.

Secondly with the spreading of poison baits, which wildlife find, no matter the level of sophisticated technology with capsulizing the poison inside the bait. During the bait trial of “Curiosity” the Corvid bird population fell by 50% .

Reviewing scientists declared the 2016-2020 cat cull a failure. This was a predictable outcome that C.A.T.S. Inc foretold. The Vacuum Effect, as it is scientifically known, will always guarantee a redistribution of the remaining cat population which will quickly breed to restock numbers.

**In regard to Question 11 re personnel permitted to detain cats:**

The detaining of cats by the community for the purpose of desexing must continue. These cats are returned home to a garden where a rescuer feeds them under the DRH (Desex Return to Home) program. This program was pioneered by C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc in the late 1980s and was formulated to comply with the Natural Resources Amendment Act. It has successfully continued till this day and is the only program to have any tangible evidence of success in lowering the ceiling population of cats.

C.A.T.S. Inc can substantiate the desexing of 135,000 cats, owned and unowned that are not of origin from a breeder.

The recent Breeder Amendment Bill giving permission for each breeder to home up to 50 cats, solely for the purpose of reproduction is counterproductive to lowering the general cat population. – not every cat in the litter is sold and the runts of the litters are often discarded adding to the challenge of keeping the unowned cat numbers down. Kittens which are deliberately bred are taking away the homes of the felines at the shelters and adoption groups, and they desperately need these homes.

**In reference to 72 hours of detention before destruction.**

Most of the cats in shelters are unowned and so have no owner to collect them. Where they are found, that is their home, that is their territory which they defend from Intruder cats. They are not lost. They should only be rescued if they are in need of medical attention.

## 17. Looking Forward

The following elements are not included in the draft Bill as council may already implement some of these through bylaws and community programs. To guide further research and development of options for cat management across Australia, we are interested in your views.

Which of the following options for cat management would you support in your area? You may select more than one response.

Limit on cat numbers [Prohibits resident assistance to multiple desexed outdoor cats](#)

Collar and ID tag [Collar is dangerous and can choke a cat on tree branches](#)

Rules to prevent cats from being a nuisance - [residents need to understand cat behaviour and be a bit tolerant](#)

Cats on property overnight [Cats cannot be enclosed – it is their natural behaviour to travel, and natural behaviour is one of the 5 freedoms](#)

Cats kept on property all the time [As stated above](#)

Cat registration fees to help fund cat management. – no, we don't require residents to have any more expenses

Other Please specify

**Other Please specify.**

The listed options are all extremely counterproductive. If you do not already know why these things are detrimental to cats. If you require some deeper understanding please email Lisa at [theanimaladvocate@outlook.com](mailto:theanimaladvocate@outlook.com)

**Oppose ALL of them and support Desex and Return to Home (Do NOT put Trap Neuter Return (TNR) as this will simply be ignored as being illegal)**

The DRH (Desex and Return To Home) program (described in the last box) has shown success in achieving all the things trying to be accomplished by the options you list, namely the protection of wildlife as it significantly reduces cat numbers, but it also resolves 99% of cat related problems such fighting and caterwauling whist in search of mates and spraying of tomcat urine. Norwood Payneham and St Peters (NP&SP) Council's results provide the best possible evidence of outcomes, as a template for the management of cats. This also puts aside cost prohibitive bylaws, which bring about expensive registration fees for residents.

18. Which of the following cat activities would you support.

They name numerous desexing ideas none of which are as good as DRH

- Programs to subsidize the cost of desexing for owners
- Community education about responsible cat management
- Improve access to desexing through innovation and programs (eg prepubertal desexing)
- Adopt capture, desex adopt programs in targeted areas
- Incentive to promote uptake of responsible cat management practices
- None of these options
- Education and support for people who feed stray cats and take more responsibility
- Support for building cat enclosures and cat runs
- Provide support to councils implementing curfew or containment requirements for cats.
- Other. Please specify

**Other Please specify**

Although some of these options appear good, they are non the less troublesome and it is fair to say they are a trap as they make the client have the microchip so then they have their name and address and the small amount they save is minuscule compared with the future fines for trespass and the registration fees that councils are currently discussing and the dollar numbers are large.

Supporting government paying for desexing will push for charging registration fees to cover it, and that is going to cut the already halved desexing rate (sinse the 2018 cat management amendments) to a quarter.

Oppose ALL of them and support Desex and Return to Home (Do not put Trap Neuter Return (TNR) as this will simply be ignored as being illegal)

As a special note, removing cats from colonies for rehoming is cruel, both for the removed cat who will miss their mates and also the remaining cats as it interferes with the colony hierarchy and also causes them stress as well.

19. Do You have any other comments to make?

In reference to question 18, whilst desexing is the best way forward, it needs to be part of a larger program. See the notes on DRH in the previous 2 boxes.

Unowned cats also need a garden territory to mark as their own to defend against intruder cats and they also need carers and feeders. Only DRH provides this.

Too often these targeted desexing programs fail when council money or a benefactors money left in a will runs out. A case in point is Gawler Council which closed off its low cost desexing program before the end of financial year 2023/24. They advised residents they had run out of funds and to call again in July, that being a new financial year. When that time came, they advised that the program would no longer go ahead. The disappointed resident was left to find help from us but was worried about the kitten being on heat in the meantime, with the possibility of her having become pregnant.

C.A.T.S. offers a comprehensive scheme that has lasted for 35 years with a future proof plan and any council can refer it's residents to this scheme.

[CATS A5Booklet 20pg.pdf \(catassist.org.au\)](https://catassist.org.au/CATS_A5Booklet_20pg.pdf)