

Responsible Pet Ownership

Helpful hints for cat owners in the Whitsunday Region

Caring for a cat may reward you with a loyal and loving companion however, just like keeping a dog, keeping a cat comes with responsibilities. Caring for your cat will help to keep a healthy and happy pet and reduce the impact on the surrounding environment by keeping your cat contained to your property at all times.

Cat Management Laws

Whitsunday Regional Council has Local Laws to regulate the keeping of cats. The objects of the Local Law are to:

- Protect the community against risk of injury and damage.
- Ensure cats do not create a nuisance or a hazard to health or safety.
- Prevent pollution and other environmental damage resulting from keeping a cat and to protect the amenity of the local environment.
- Ensure that cats are kept and used in a way that is consistent with the rights and expectations of the local community.

Tips to be a responsible cat owner

- Keep your cat safely enclosed on your property.
- Desex your cat.
- Microchip your cat.
- Register your cat.
- Put an identification tag on your cat's collar and attach bells to warn wildlife.
- Provide sufficient food and water for your cat.
- Play with your cat each day and provide it with toys and a scratching post.

Cat Registration/Microchipping



In accordance with the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008* all cats must be registered with Whitsunday Regional Council from 12 weeks of age. Remember to notify Council should your cats ownership or address details change. Registering your cat will assist Council Officers to notify you if your cat is impounded or in case of an accident. If you buy or are given a cat you must ensure the animal is microchipped if over the age of eight (8) weeks. Don't forget to update your contact details linked to your cat's microchip with the licensed microchip registry company. It is a fineable offence for not having your new cat microchipped and registered within the Whitsunday Regional Council area and on-the-spot fines may be issued.

Wandering/Enclosures

Council Local Law requires that cat owners must maintain a proper enclosure to prevent the cat from wandering or escaping from its property. Your cat is deemed to be wandering at large when it is unaccompanied by a responsible person who can exercise effective control over the animal. A cat located wandering at large may be impounded and taken to Council's pound.

Impounded Cats

Cats which have been located wandering at large may be placed in Council's Pound. This is done foremost to remove the nuisance created to the property owner and reduce the damage that may be caused to wildlife, and secondly for the safety of the animal. Impoundment fees apply to cover the cost of the animal's rescue/recovery and transport to the Pound. Please contact Council for current release fees.

Further Information

For further information on caring for your cat, please contact Council by calling 1300 WRC QLD, visiting our website at www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au, or emailing Council at info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au