

Closed		
We're all ears		385
Proposed Cat Management Bylaw		Contributors
		405
		Contributions

Contribution Summary

1. This is the purr-fect place to share your feedback

Long Text | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 405 (100%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

Education

Challenges

Limit cats per household

Pro desexing

Cat containment

Phase in over time

Anti cat regulation

Anti cat containment

Pro microchipping

Pro registration

Strain on rescue centres

Toxoplasia

Conservation

Cat nuisance

Cost concern

Subsidies

Tag	Percent	Count
Pro microchipping	61%	246
Pro registration	47%	190
Pro desexing	38%	153
Conservation	31%	124
Cat containment	26%	107
Cat nuisance	15%	62
Anti cat regulation	13%	54
Cost concern	11%	43
Limit cats per household	8%	34
Subsidies	7%	28
Toxoplasmosis	7%	27
Strain on rescue centres	6%	25

Education	4%	17
Phase in over time	2%	8
Farm challenges	2%	7
Anti cat containment	1%	5

Featured Contributions

Registration and microchipping: I strongly support a bylaw being adopted where registration and microchipping is compulsory for cat owners. This would be a great help for conservation projects that can then set live capture traps for cats and be able to ascertain whether they are owned or feral. Desexing: Prevention of unwanted kittens would be a major advancement in cat management in Nelson Tasman. Animal shelters and cat rescues strain under the burden of so many unwanted cats. Desexing from four months would go a long way to addressing this pressure. Desexing would be compulsory under a new proposed national Cat Management Act so the Councils may as well get ahead of the game. Cat limit: Cat limits are the most common form of regulation in bylaws across Aotearoa. This is also necessary in Nelson Tasman. Imposing cat limits to households where cats pose a nuisance, e.g. cat hoarders and unwanted breeding, is an easy way to address and abate the nuisance of too many cats.

Contribution 48 of 48 | 14 December 2023

I have been a devoted owner of cats for over 40 years and I'm currently the caring and responsible owner of 2 desexed female cats who are both nearly 18 years old. I keep their diet and health treatments as natural as possible. I very much object to the potential enforcement of microchip implants into cats. It is certainly not difficult, in the case of a lost pet, for an owner to quickly contact local vets and animal rescue centres to try and locate their animal - surely only those who weren't responsible owners would fail to do so. A person who shows no active interest in seeking out their lost pet is clearly not suited to be in possession of that animal into the future. I see no real need for mandatory registration of cats and therefore object to this proposal. Obviously, in most cases, desexing pet animals is sensible, the responsible thing to do and should be encouraged but I do not think it should be mandatory. Most pet cats are domestic moggies, not sourced from registered pure bred cat breeders. If cat desexing did become compulsory, it would seem unlikely that any owners of moggie cats would then register them as excluded breeding cats, meaning that the only legal sources of kittens would be from pure bred cat breeders and from animal rescue shelters. It should not be against the law for owners of domestic cats, not officially registered as "breeding cats", to let their pets have a litter of kittens - I really think that is going too far. No law change can make every cat owner into a kind and considerate person, always doing the right thing for their pets - but it can place unnecessary and unwarranted requirements and restrictions on the law abiding who really do love their feline companions and have their best interests at heart. I am very dedicated to the welfare of my two special cats and my previous cat was a beautiful, gentle and affectionate domestic moggie who reached her twentieth year. I sincerely hope that the council does not pass this proposed "Cat Management" bylaw - it is neither needed nor wanted by this particular very responsible cat owner.

Contribution 47 of 48 | 14 December 2023

We support a bylaw being adopted where registration and microchipping is compulsory for cat owners. Prevention of unwanted kittens would be a major advancement in cat management in Nelson Tasman. Animal shelters and cat rescues strain under the burden of so many unwanted cats. Desexing from four months would go a long way to addressing this pressure. Other councils are also heading in this direction. e.g. Hutt City proposed an amendment to its Bylaw in November proposing compulsory desexing at 12 weeks. Cat limits are the most common form of regulation in bylaws across Aotearoa. This is also necessary in Nelson Tasman. Imposing cat limits to households where cats pose a nuisance, e.g. cat hoarders and unwanted breeding, is an easy way to address and abate the nuisance of too many cats. Registration, microchipping, desexing and a cat limit are all supported by vets, the SPCA and Forest & Bird.

Contribution 46 of 48 | 11 December 2023

This is a brilliant idea and the sooner it happens the better. I am a practicing vet nurse and we scan 10 cats to every dog for a microchip. What a fantastic way to sharpen up caring for our feline companions in all aspects.

Contribution 45 of 48 | 11 December 2023

too expensive for people who havent done it already - like dogs they wont bother -

Contribution 44 of 48 | 10 December 2023

As an owner of QEII covenanted land which we work hard at protecting, both the flora and fauna within, we are exasperated by our lack of ability to do anything about the cats that roam on our property and actively hunt both birds and lizards that live here. With one neighbour owning two cats and the other with three (including one that is more or less feral) we notice frequent bird kills on the fringes of our bush including tui, warblers and fantails. We recently visited Australia and were impressed by how few cats we saw, with several places encouraging cats indoors and cat runs. Please consider anything that will help to control the predation by cats on our wildlife (native or otherwise).

Contribution 43 of 48 | 10 December 2023

No thanks i do not agree. My cats have collars, are desexed and all upto date with worming/ fleas etc. This is enough Thanks

Contribution 42 of 48 | 10 December 2023

Make it Compulsory Desexing as well it's the only way to get unwanted Kittens under control

Contribution 41 of 48 | 9 December 2023

I'd love to see some more restrictions placed on cats. They kill so much of our native wildlife- birds and lizards ☹ and those of us who don't have cats are forced to repeatedly and constantly clean up the poos of our cat owning neighbors' pets who contaminate our gardens and put our families at risk of toxoplasmosis. It would be great to see a change in cat ownership in NZ. What other pet animal has the right to defecate all over other peoples properties. The owners take no responsibility for the mess and damage they cause. These rules don't go far enough. Not even close.

Contribution 40 of 48 | 8 December 2023

Makes sense to require desexing microchipping and registration from a welfare perspective and is part of responsible ownership. There are too many kittens being dumped or cats turning feral due to lack of controls.

Contribution 39 of 48 | 7 December 2023

I agree all cats should be micro chipped and registered just like dogs have to be. I personally also think cats shouldn't be allowed to roam and kill wildlife like they do, and defecate in other peoples gardens. They go in other homes and attack other cats and eat their food, how is that ok?! The daily postings about lost cats is overwhelming.

Contribution 38 of 48 | 7 December 2023

Excellent proposal. It's so important to have all cats desexed, chipped and registered for both the animals and owners sake. If people are upset about the costs involved with responsible pet ownership, they shouldn't have pets.

Contribution 37 of 48 | 7 December 2023

To take partial action but not require de-sexing would be a massive waste of effort! please include mandatory de-sexing.

Contribution 36 of 48 | 4 December 2023

Lots of my neighbors have dearly loved cats and I don't want to take that joy of having a loving companion animal away from them. I am concerned about the impact that all cats, including pets, have on native birds insects and lizards. Ideally I would like to see cats confined to living indoors but realize this would be a step too far for most cat owners. If there was a way of confining cats too there own property I would love to see it happen there are electronic methods for dogs but probably not for cats. Another concern I have is the number of neighbors cats that stray on to my property. Many of them choose to defecate in the sand pit my granddaughter uses. This exposes her to the risk of picking up a cat borne disease such as Toxoplasmosis. The number of cats per family should be limited to an absolute maximum of 2. Production of kittens should be restricted to individuals who are registered cat breeders and the roaming of there cats should be strictly controlled. We have lost too many native birds. The increase of predator trapping schemes should provide a welcome boost to the successful breeding of native birds. Uncontrolled cat numbers and uncontrolled roaming of all cats severely reduces the impact of these trapping efforts

Contribution 35 of 48 | 4 December 2023

Would be a great initiative to register, desex and chip pet cats. It helps the conversation about responsible cat ownership. I do trapping work and it means I could confidently set live cat traps and tell the difference between a pet and a feral cat. Enables a conversation about how far some pet cats can wander and the damage they do to insects, lizards and birds. Anne
Contribution 34 of 48 | 3 December 2023

As an owner of 2 cats, as well as a conservationist, I think it is extremely important that people are encouraged and supported to own cats responsibly. Microchipping & neutering are the LEAST that should be done. Cats should also wear a bell or bright coloured collar and be kept in at night time (less fights, less likely to be hit on the road, less likely to catch birds during dawn/dusk). I do also think there should be an argument for a new cat limit of 3 cats, with rescue shelters the exception. Breeding of cats should also be more tightly controlled, as we have more than enough rescues needing homes. Additionally, there is also an argument for cat-free zones (or indoor pets only) near particularly fragile ecosystems/reserves/nature sanctuaries. As there are with dogs & kiwi zones.
Contribution 33 of 48 | 3 December 2023

I strongly support the view that there should be compulsory registration and microchipping of cats in our region. Prevention of unwanted kittens would also be a major advancement so compulsory desexing of cats above a certain age would also be something I support.
Contribution 32 of 48 | 30 November 2023

Happy to comply with these, however there are many that will just ignore any bylaws. How will this be managed?
Contribution 31 of 48 | 27 November 2023

About time we had cat regulations. When I lived in the USA cats in my state had to be contained within their own homes or very secure backyards, no escaping was permitted. There were fines if this happened. (This is the state of California.) I am a NZ born kiwi and I believe we are overdue as a nation to have laws about responsible cat ownership. Also only 1 cat per household please.
Contribution 30 of 48 | 25 November 2023

TDC could provide cat owners with advice about designing and building cat-proof enclosures, e.g., catios, cat-proof fencing etc
Contribution 29 of 48 | 19 November 2023

We have community trapping projects in our area to help protect highly valued native species of birds. There is tension between cat owners and these community biodiversity goals because cats often wander from their owners' property. Any TDC moves to enhance and promote responsible cat ownership reduces this tension and is most welcome.
Contribution 28 of 48 | 19 November 2023

Agree domestic cats should be microchipped, desexed and registered. They should also be kept inside the owner's home or within fenced outdoor areas (catios). Also feral cats should be trapped and euthanised. Cats allowed to roam will kill birds and also often defecate in vege gardens and potentially cause toxoplasmosis.
Contribution 27 of 48 | 18 November 2023

I fully support requiring all pet cats to be registered, microchipped and de-sexed. As much as we love cats culturally they are undeniably terrible predators of bird life. Cats should also not be allowed to roam freely. We have many neighbourhood cats pooping in our vegetable garden which is disgusting and a health hazard. We would not accept other pet animals to roam freely so why is it ok for cats. There should also be a limitation on cat ownership in areas close to national parks so that cat ownership is phased out in areas that have significant native bird life.
Contribution 26 of 48 | 17 November 2023

Yes! Cat owners should have as much responsibility as dog owners. And while it is important for cat lovers to have the option to have them as pets not at a cost to others, the city or to our biodiversity. Pet owners should budget and plan for the needs of their pets.
Contribution 25 of 48 | 17 November 2023

100% for managing cats like we do dogs so that pet cats are looked after properly and have a home and a lap, while the unowned cat populations are reduced for the sake of our wildlife
Contribution 24 of 48 | 17 November 2023

I love cats. Currently I don't own one and I can now see why non cat owners get upset by cat antics. They indiscriminately foul gardens, which is very unpleasant. The beautiful native bird life is ever increasing and cats have scant regard when it comes to species. Sparrows, fantails, waxeyes, tuis etc, it makes no difference to them. Containing cats to a property is the future. Let's face it, many decades back few people thought you could contain dogs to a section. Owners had to adapt and provide fencing that contained their dog or lose their dog. Time cat owners did likewise.
Contribution 23 of 48 | 17 November 2023

I suspect that micro-chipping and registration are solutions looking for a problem. They will not stop the neighbourhood cats defecating in my garden or killing birds. I would support de-sexing cats for a time but if it were permanent it would eventually mean that there were no cats available except expensive ones from breeders.
Contribution 22 of 48 | 16 November 2023

Both of my cats are microchipped and de-sexed. Happy to make this mandatory unless a registered breeder. Costs will be a barrier for a lot of people so if there's a way for people to get a subsidy that would help encourage it.
Contribution 21 of 48 | 16 November 2023

Making microchipping, registration (and eventually desexing) of owned cats would have SO many benefits, from both a conservation and an animal welfare point of view. It will make life easier for vets and our hardworking SPCA. It will also give cat owners an idea of the costs and responsibility of pet ownership. Definitely support this idea!
Contribution 20 of 48 | 16 November 2023

Cats are a fundamental part of NZ lifestyles but for too long there has been no control over their behaviour at all. They are hugely destructive to the natural environment and the diseases they can carry (Toxoplasma especially) also carry massive knock on effects in other ecosystems. I would fully support education of owners as to the unintended problems they cause when they are let loose into the outdoors. Compulsory microchipping would allow identification of feral vs owned cats in sensitive areas. I would fully support some kind of time curfew for cats as well so they don't get as much opportunity to fight and predate native animals.
Contribution 19 of 48 | 14 November 2023

Mandatory microchipping and desexing is the best way forward. Stray unowned cats are causing lots of injuries to healthy owned cats.
Contribution 18 of 48 | 14 November 2023

Sounds good. I have two indoor cats. A bit of education about indoor cats would be cool – not as a law but just to inform people of the option to keep cats inside.
Contribution 17 of 48 | 14 November 2023

Fully support. Would support mandatory desexing as well. Better for the cats' welfare and better for the wildlife. Win win.
Contribution 16 of 48 | 14 November 2023

This is a much needed move, and it has convinced me to get my parents to chip their cat. They have had 3 cats run away when moving house and never found them again. It is a good and easy move to have ever cat micro chipped the same as dogs
Contribution 15 of 48 | 14 November 2023

I am a cat lover and I agree with compulsory microchipping and registration.
Contribution 14 of 48 | 14 November 2023

As a cat owner and environmentalist this is an overdue change.
Contribution 13 of 48 | 14 November 2023

The SPCA sees so many 'stray' cats everyday that are clearly owned but without a microchip (or a microchip that isn't registered) there is no way of finding the owner. This new by-law would hopefully be a great way to reduce these instances. However judging from the comments on social media it needs to be more clear that the registration fee is a one off and is not paid to the council as it seems a lot of people seem to be upset at the idea of registration as they assume it's the same as the annual council registration for dogs.
Contribution 12 of 48 | 13 November 2023

I don't believe this is a good idea. I am form agenst it. Unless the desexing and microchipping is 100% for everyone and paid for by the council
Contribution 11 of 48 | 13 November 2023

I think it's a fabulous idea and will definitely help with lost and found etc Also capping the number of cats like 2 per household could be a good idea.
Contribution 10 of 48 | 13 November 2023

Yes microchipping and the associated database registration is straightforward and benefits everyone. Subsidized programmes should be set up like previous ones for dog owners to enable those on lower incomes meet the initial microchip cost for adult cats. Desexing is also a no brainer, anything to reduce the over population and unwanted kittens every year.
Contribution 9 of 48 | 13 November 2023

Desexing and microchipping should be mandatory. Having worked for the SPCA this is the best approach to regulating the ever increasing amount of unwanted cats and kittens.
Contribution 8 of 48 | 13 November 2023

Cats should be microchipped, registered, desexed and kept inside at night. Feral cats are a big problem.
Contribution 7 of 48 | 13 November 2023

This is long overdue. This would encourage responsible pet ownership, helping take strain off wildlife and the SPCA.
Contribution 6 of 48 | 13 November 2023

Yes, this is a great idea, and I wish it had been introduced earlier! Mandatory desexing is definitely something that should come with it though, and will drastically increase the positive effects of this bylaw. Enforcement may be difficult to do, and ensuring it's achievable for people of all incomes, so discount vouchers and a lot of marketing?, as well as education will need to happen. \$75 for registration and microchipping is considered cheap to a lot of people, but having worked in the veterinary industry, there is an abundance of people that wouldn't opt to spend a lot on their pets, abandonment of the animals itself or their health needs is really common.

As a vet nurse in the area, I think this is a brilliant idea. We have a reasonable amount of hit by car cats that are not microchipped brought into us that are dead on arrival. It is a lot easier to find the owners of the microchipped cats which then allows us to let their people know in a much more compassionate and kind way than posting on the lost pet groups. We've also been able to reunite cats that have been missing for months with their owners. I think including desexing as a baseline requirement for cat registration is also a great idea. For those that can't afford it, many vet clinics are a part of the SPCA snip and chip program which brings the cost down to \$0-30 per animal. Potentially partnering with the SPCA snip and chip program during the introduction of registration could help? Obviously there would be exceptions to the desexing rule (ie cat breeders) but that would be on a case by case basis. Overall, I think this initiative could be really great and as someone who sees the benefits of microchipping on a daily basis, I thoroughly support it.

Contribution 4 of 48 | 13 November 2023

Totally in favour of this proposal. I am a foster carer for felines from the SPCA and see the results of these measures not being taken.

Contribution 3 of 48 | 13 November 2023

We have two senior cats, who both don't venture far from our property. One we would struggle to get to the vet as she is petrified on small spaces so we can't get her in a cage. My concern is, having to get older cats chipped might cause more stress than necessary. Maybe if a bylaw is introduced, it could be for cats under a certain age?

Contribution 2 of 48 | 13 November 2023

I'm by a cat owner & totally agree with microchipping and registration of all cats.

Contribution 1 of 48 | 13 November 2023