

Port Macquarie Hastings Council Companion Animal Impounding Facility

John Fraser Place
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Phone: (02) 6583 3488

Many communities have un-owned (stray) cats living in drains and colonies. People feeding these stray cats are only contributing to the problem of unwanted cats and kittens. They may feel they are looking after the animals by feeding them. However, the cats will continue to breed and the problem will soon become far beyond anyone's control. Stray cats should be trapped and taken to the local Council pound.

Desexing cats

Cats can be desexed as young as 8 weeks of age. It is important to desex young cats before they reach sexual maturity. Young females can become pregnant at the age of 4 months old. Desexing male cats before 3 months of age prevents anti-social behaviour such as aggressiveness and urine spraying in and around your house.

Need assistance to desex your cat?

Contact the local vets in your area as prices vary greatly.

Animal welfare organisations such as the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and Cat Protection Society may also help desex your cat.

RSPCA

10 Karungi Crescent
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444
Phone: (02) 65 810380

Port Macquarie Animal Welfare Services

Phone: (02) 6584 6142

Cat Protection Society

www.catprotection.org.au

Need more information?

If you would like to know more about animal related services offered by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, contact the Ranger Services section on (02) 6581 8111.

Companion Animals Act

For more information on the Companion Animals Act visit the Companion Animals "Chip In" website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au

Is your dog or cat missing?

Contact Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Companion Animal Impounding Facility:

John Fraser Place
PORT MACQUARIE
(02) 6583 3488

RSPCA

10 Karungi Crescent
PORT MACQUARIE
(02) 65 810380

Port Macquarie Animal Welfare Services

(02) 6584 6142

Local Vets

Check your local phone directory

Have you found an animal?

If you find an animal and cannot find its owner within a short period of time, contact Council's Ranger Section on (02) 6581 8111.

After hours contact (02) 6583 2225.

For more information visit Council's website at www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au



Your guide to RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERSHIP

in Port Macquarie-Hastings



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS

RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERSHIP

What is it?

Cat owners have a responsibility to their cat and the community to ensure their cat is housed, managed and kept responsibly. Irresponsible ownership can jeopardise the safety of the animal and further tarnish the reputation of the cat when it is simply behaving as a cat does.

People often have divided opinions about cats, you either like them or dislike them. Cats are seen in the community as either a friend or a pest.

The information in this brochure is designed to help cat owners house and manage their pets. This is healthier for the cat, the family and the wider community.

Responsible cat ownership has many facets:

- Identification and registration.
- Housing and management of cats.
- Understanding cat behaviour.
- Desexing pet/companion cats that are not to be used for breeding pedigree registered cats.

Identification and Registration

In New South Wales lifetime registration of cats was brought in when the Companion Animals Act, 1998 was introduced in 1999. All cats born, sold or given away after July 1999 must be identified with a microchip and lifetime registered by six (6) months of age.

There are exemptions for cats owned before July 1999 on the commencement of the Act. However, they must still be identified in some way, either a microchip or collar and name tag.

For more information on the identification and lifetime registration requirements of cats see Council's "Information for cat owners in NSW" brochure available from all Council offices or www.dlg.nsw.gov.au.

Housing and management of cats

Traditionally cats have roamed the neighbourhood making themselves at home with everyone. Cat owners are now realising the benefits of keeping their cats as indoor only pets. Statistics show that indoor cats have healthier and longer lives than their outdoor cousins.

Benefits of keeping cats indoors are:

- Dogs – many cats are killed or seriously injured in attacks by dogs.
- Cars – Cats do not have any road sense. Many cross roads successfully but one day their luck may run out and they could get hit by a car and possibly die a slow and painful death.
- People – sadly not everyone loves cats and some seem to get great pleasure out of being cruel and hurting or killing cats. This often results because the neighbour's cat regularly enters their yard and the person takes great resentment to this.
- Wildlife – prevent your cat from hunting native wildlife. Hunting is a normal behaviour for cats and they can't be blamed for this when humans allow them to roam uncontrolled.
- Better health for your cat – indoor cats don't get into cat fights which can cause a nasty abscess, which are very painful for the cat and need to be treated by a veterinarian.

Before you let your feline friend outside you need to ask yourself...

Is it fair to let my cat out to wander into other people's property, possibly causing damage and pooping and peeing on the neighbour's garden?

Would I allow a dog the same freedom? How would I feel if the neighbour's dog or cat came over to my place and did the same thing?

Cat owners can give their cat the best of both worlds by providing a safe outdoor enclosure. This allows

the cat to experience the outdoors but in a controlled environment. Enclosures can be as simple or as elaborate as you like.

The ideal cat enclosure will contain space for the cat to run around with climbing options and plenty of shade and resting places.

Understanding cat behaviour

By nature cats are predators, they need to hunt for food to survive. Cats also roam to provide themselves with mental and physical exercise.

Unfortunately, your neighbour may not appreciate your cat coming on to their property. When cats roam they often urinate and defecate on lawns and gardens and can cause damage to cars by jumping on and off them.

Roaming cats and the law

There is no law prohibiting cats from roaming. Cat owners need to be aware that if their cat roams on to private property and causes damage, the person on that property can take the cat to the local pound, though they should contact Council in the first instance for advice. Once at the pound, the cat will be held for a statutory period and if not claimed, it may be rehomed or euthanased. For the protection of your cat it should be identified with a microchip and prevented from roaming on to other properties.

Stray Cats

If you have a stray cat around your home or work place you should ensure it is not owned by one of your neighbours first. Council provides a facility for the care and housing of stray animals, including cats, located at the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Companion Animal Impounding Facility.

Stray cats can be taken to the shelter by members of the public during normal opening hours.

Council does not pick up stray cats.

