

10/8/2022



Dear Mr Schober,

RE: Proposed Cat Local Law

We support your proposal to regulate the number of cats that may be kept on premises within the Denmark district.

Cats that are allowed to roam put wildlife at risk. Numerous studies have shown that cats wander significant distances and enter reserves set aside for conservation purposes. Pet cats should always be contained.

We welcome the prospect that cat owners shall prevent the cat from creating a nuisance and we realise complaints regarding nuisance cats are on the rise for several reasons. Along with the common grievances, cats which are not kept on the premises of their owners have the potential to spread Toxoplasmosis which may affect the health of both people, native fauna, and livestock.

The RSPCA and other animal welfare organisation strongly advocate the containment of pet cats for their own welfare. More information is available at the RSPCA website:

kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/is-it-okay-to-keep-my-cat-at-home-all-of-the-time/

We notice that the proposed law does not address the issue of stray or unowned cats. We recommend the Shire of Denmark adopt a policy similar to the one of the City of Albany, www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/1555/wandering-cat-management-policy which stipulates that a cat found without identification be treated as a feral animal and be destroyed after 3 days.

We recommend a period of targeted community education prior to the implementation of the proposed law.

The ASFCWG are a community-driven organisation made up of volunteers and local government groups working together to conserve our biodiversity and increase public awareness of cats in our region. While our main aim is to protect native animals from feral cats, we recognise that domestic and stray cats also have a considerable impact on native wildlife.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the ASFCWG

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Jenni Loveland.

Jenni Loveland

Founder of the ASFCWG and Project Officer

20 September 2022 - Attachment 9.3.4a

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Denmark Shire Enquiries](#)
Subject: ISUB2272184 - [REDACTED]
Date: Sunday, 3 July 2022 4:21:52 PM

Great idea

To many cats ...they have caused so much damage to our native species ..
Personally I would be creating a law to ban all breeding and a Denmark free cat zone ..
Owners of cats now can have them until they pass awayand no more cats after that

Good idea right

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Denmark Shire Enquiries](#)
Subject: ISUB2272200 - Cat law
Date: Saturday, 9 July 2022 2:49:27 PM

Please, please, yes, tighten cat ownership laws. I live at [REDACTED] Ocean Beach and the birds are spectacular, though there are often unclaimed and unknown cats wandering around, so close to the supposed "A class reserve" there can't possibly not be an impact on the wildlife. We're tired of stray cats and lax owners with no sense of responsibility or understanding of the impact their "pets" have. Cats are well documented "thrill killers" that impact native wildlife. Please continue to clamp down.

Thanks & regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Denmark Shire Enquiries](#)
Subject: ISUB2272182 - Cat policy
Date: Saturday, 2 July 2022 5:19:39 PM

100% behind the Shire.

Manjimup Shire has cat free suburbs and also does a baiting scheme.

Responsible owners will do the right thing.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

LEG.1

Laurette Beurteaux
of Denmark Animal Care Group

Shire of Denmark 12, 08, 22

12 AUG 2022

15082282379

Claire Thompson
Governance Co-ordinator
Shire of Denmark.

Hello,

I am submitting some comments re the Denmark Shire Cat Laws (proposed).
I'm drawing on experience as a long term member of Denmark Animal Care Group.

I realize that the state cat laws have been in place for several years, but people still don't always know about the general regulations or the necessity for microchipping and registration.

Perhaps a ~~period~~^{some} of time could be given when the local laws are introduced to remind people of their obligations, for the welfare of their animals as well as others.

Just telling people how much they can be fined isn't always helpful.

The people who care will probably do the right thing anyway, and those who are worried about the cost may just ~~lose~~^{abandon} their excess pets, thus increasing the number of stray cats.

We find that most people who have cats are responsible and care about their animals.*

Also since the cat act was introduced we have far fewer litters of kittens being abandoned or handed in ~~lost~~ (the people doing this are difficult to track down).

Limiting the number of sterilized, registered cats per household to 2 isn't really going to make much ~~any~~ difference to the number of feral cats. (it could increase the number of surrendered or dumped cats)

Education can help, as can offering free sterilizations*
(and this often applies to those who have say 3 or 5 ~~more~~).

*and this

at times, and trapping strays. (and ^{finding owners} rehoming)
Plus trapping & sterilizing colony cats in
certain situations? (probably not relevant to Denmark)

This year I've spent some time helping owners to
try to trap escapees, or trapping strays. It takes a while
even tho' it's not a "big number" :).

On enclosures... - ~~that~~, fencing etc.

- Perhaps a period of grace could be given
for people to organize adequate enclosures
or fencing etc.

Again people can be helped by telling them
what's required for a good enclosure and directing
them to the many examples on the internet, etc.

It would be great if we had someone who
erected these in the area - Denmark, NT Borker,
Walpole.

Also some one / group who were able to help
certain people - elderly, disabled etc as cat
enclosures can be expensive to buy.

I hope that this is helpful.

(and apologise for it not being in a more formal form)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regards,
Laurette Beutcaux
[REDACTED]

(I should have asked also: how with "rescue groups"
or foster carers be dealt with - has this been considered)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Denmark Shire Enquiries](#)
Subject: ISUB2262179 - Shire of Denmark Cats Local Law 2022 submission
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2022 7:56:21 PM

Good morning David,

I would like to state my agreement with the proposed Shire of Denmark Cats Local Law 2022, as I believe it will have positive implications for wildlife where cats may be prevented from straying outside their place of residence.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]
Ocean Beach WA 6333

Shire of Denmark,
953 South Coast Hwy,
Denmark WA 6333

[REDACTED]
Ocean Beach WA 6333
21-7-2022

RE: PROPOSED CAT LOCAL LAW FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

1. Regulate the standard number of cats per property
2. The process of determining, transferring, cancellation or renewing an application to keep more than the standard number of cats at any one property
3. Nuisance cats
4. Modified penalties for clauses relating to items 2 and 3 above.

Dear Shire of Denmark,

I urge you to mandate as many policies as appropriate for the control of cats in the Denmark region.

I would like to share with you incidents involving cats.

My story in Denmark, WA:

I own a property in Denmark which I have made native fauna/flora friendly.

A neighbour moved in with 2-3 cats and I was finding Splendid Fairywren, New Holland Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird remains under an apricot tree. The cats were systematically killing birdlife which I was witness to. They were also targeting skinks and King Skinks, the latter being wiped out. One morning I saw a cat standing over a dead Phascogale near the front door.

Having hired a cat trap from the Denmark Council I eventually caught one of the neighbour's cats. I returned it to the council. It had no tags. I gave the Council the address of the property where it was I thought it was housed.

Within a short time the cat was back again killing wildlife on my property.

I respectfully talked to the neighbour who owned the cats and I was told it was a child's pet and they knew it wandered around the area. Also that at another property it had been a leader of several cats in the area and seemed like the alpha cat. They had no problem with it killing wildlife, it was a shame to them.

I undertake certain garden jobs in the area and across my road is a property where I have seen at least 3 Western Rosella remains and feathers. At certain times of the year when the flat weeds have tall flower stems which the rosellas eat, they are easy targets for the cats from 2 properties that frequent that garden. Another property down the road has had remains of several Western Rosellas that I have witnessed.

Recently a new cat was housed over the road from me. I have seen it next to a Common Bronzewing in my garden that it had killed, the Bronzewings often being on the ground. The cat staked its territory by peeing on my front door. Another time it sprang vertically from the road reserve up my fence and narrowly missed a Raven that was perched on the 2m fence.

I am aware that Mt Hallowell is full of feral cats.

I have seen remains of parrots and wrens on the trail from the windmills to Lights Beach which are either feral cat or fox killings. A friend rides a bike every day on the trail and he says he has seen dozens of feral cats.

I have talked to people in my area and they tell me Scarlet Robins once frequented the area.

Another person I know who lived near the Shire Offices told me that they had a family of White-browed Babblers around their property. Neighbours brought a cat in and eventually the babbler family were wiped out, witnessed by the story teller.

My story in Tasmania:

I once visited friends of mine who lived in a new suburb on the outskirts of Hobart, next to bushland. They had a domestic cat and I witnessed first hand the destruction they can do. The cat which had a litter of babies had killed four rare Barred Bandicoots and had left them near its offspring who were too small to feed on them. A fully grown Barred Bandicoot, obviously a parent of the babies hung grotesquely in a lamb and sheep wire fence near the house. Their large domestic cat had killed it and had tried to bring it to its young to feed on.

At one stage I lived on Woolmers, a classified property in Longford. People I knew who rented a Georgian cottage on the property had a one-eyed cat. The cat I was told actually caught bats in mid flight in the dark. It also killed Superb Blue Wrens and other small birds and their remains were littered around the lawns on the property.

I know of many fair-minded people living in Denmark who keep their pet cats either in an outside run or keep in the house.

Most people I know with cats do not believe their cat catches wildlife.

Another problem associated with cats is **Toxoplasmosis** in Humans:

People can get toxoplasmosis from:

- Disposing of cat faeces and not washing hands thoroughly afterward.
- Gardening in soil or touching sandboxes that have been contaminated with infected cat faeces without washing hands thoroughly afterward.
- Acute toxoplasmosis in pregnant women can affect the unborn child.

I urge the council to bring in these requirements:

1. Pet owners should be required to register their cats, a measure designed to encourage responsible pet ownership and ensure revenue reaches local councils who enforce cat-control regulations.
2. Cat owners should be required to spay and neuter their cats to reduce the number of unwanted litters and the dumping of stray cats.
3. To mandate night-time curfews to prevent domestic cats leaving their homes after dark.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

Please view 2021 Federal Parliament Report on next page.

A NEW REPORT FROM THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDS CAT REGISTRATION, NIGHTTIME CURFEWS AND SPAYING AND NEUTERING (2021).

Cats arrived in Australia with the first European settlers in 1788. Within 70 years, cats had spread throughout the country; cats now inhabit 99.9 percent of Australia's total land area. On a yearly average, an estimated 2.8 million feral cats roam the continent.

The final report found that every year, each individual feral cat in Australia kills 390 mammals, 225 reptiles and 130 birds. That adds up. Every year, feral cats kill 1.4 billion native Australian animals—around the same number that died in the catastrophic 2019-20 bushfires when more than 73,000 square miles burned.

Feral cats are not the only problem: **The parliamentary report also found that Australia's almost 3.8 million pet cats kill up to 390 million animals every year.**

To reduce the impact pet cats have on native animals, the report recommended three major steps.

First, pet owners should be required to register their cats, a measure designed to encourage responsible pet ownership and ensure revenue reaches local councils who enforce cat-control regulations.

Second, cat owners should be required to spay and neuter their cats to reduce the number of unwanted litters and the dumping of stray cats.

Most controversially, the report also urged governments to mandate night-time curfews to prevent domestic cats leaving their homes after dark.

Some conservationists hoped the report would go further. Night-time curfews “would benefit native nocturnal mammals, but won't save birds and reptiles, which are primarily active during the day,” wrote Woinarski and others in response to the report. “Pet cats kill 83 million native reptiles and 80 million native birds in Australia each year. From a wildlife perspective, keeping pet cats contained 24/7 is the only responsible option.”

Cat containment measures even have the support of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Australia's peak animal welfare organization. RSPCA animal shelters take in 65,000 cats every year, and around 40 percent of these are euthanized. In a 2018 policy document that was cited favorably in the 2021 parliamentary report, the RSPCA agreed that “Cat containment regulations need to mandate 24-hour containment, rather than night-time curfews, if they are to significantly reduce wildlife predation, breeding of unwanted cats and cat nuisance.”

From: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/australias-cats-kill-two-billion-animals-annually-180977235/>

Smithsonian Magazine. Chris Ham. March 17 2021.

Claire Thompson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 5 July 2022 11:42 AM
To: Denmark Shire Enquiries
Subject: ISUB2272186 - Proposed new cat laws Public Comment

Your proposal for new! Cat laws do nothing.

Sterilising a cat, putting a collar on a cat, or registering a cat does nothing unless the owner keeps the cat on their premises. The cat owners will tell you that without spending money they don't have, they can't construct a cat enclosure. Hence, they have to let the cat out to risk the wrath of all the maniacal psychopathic cat killers that are just waiting for their perfectly behaved, much-loved feline to appear. The cats are not the problem; as usual, it's the owners.

If we take the official figures, a cat left to stray in a rural town will kill 5/7 times a night. How many cats are there in Denmark? Let's take a figure of 100, my guess would be much higher, but it makes for easy numbers to understand. One hundred cats 5 kills a night for a year 1825 kills. $100 \times 5 \times 365 = 182500$ Kills in Denmark every year with just 100 cats. To me, that alone is just totally unacceptable for an introduced non-indigenous pet. There are species going extinct because people want to keep their pets. Extinct.....They cease to exist as a species, and that is happening because authorities won't bite the bullet and say keep your cat enclosed. I have dead birds, skinks and fledglings around my property regularly.

The above is the killing part of this pet.

Perhaps I live in an area where there have been many cats. Often they are about roaming the streets during the day; regularly, I would have to take avoiding action to save damaging my car. Clearly, if I did run over a cat or even a dog and my car was damaged, a chip and a collar would help since I would be seeking damages from the owner of the cat or dog. I have actually done that, and it cost the dog owner \$11000.00 Good reason not to register your pet EH!

Cats are constantly in my garden at night, fighting and winding up the local dogs, who then start to bark, keeping the neighbourhood awake. A friend recently borrowed a trap and caught a cat that was regularly stirring up his dog at night. After a few nights, he successfully caught the cat that spent an uncomfortable night in the trap away from his dog. This friend phoned your Ranger, Dave, who picked up the cat and contacted the owner and gave the cat back. The owner said as they do, "The cat escaped". He was not fined, and the cat was back out the following night. What do you think might happen to the cat next time it is trapped? Unlikely since it will now be trap-wise!!!

I like homegrown vegetables. Cats continually dug up my seedlings as they like to come and poop in the freshly prepared soil. Out of 8 seedlings purchased I would lose 4. I went and purchased some steel reinforcing mesh to protect the seedlings.



This is cat poop. The lettuce had to be thrown out since it was covered in cat urine, another nice trick that cats do marking their territory



Seedlings and Letuice were thrown out because of cat urine.



Steel mesh covering my seedling area. Trying to make it cat proof.

We say it again. The only way is to have a local law that states if you have a cat it must stay on your property. You won't do that. The only alternative is to eradicate the cats.

Denmark WA 6333

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Denmark Shire Enquiries](#)
Subject: ISUB2272229 - Proposed new Local Cat Laws
Date: Wednesday, 20 July 2022 10:25:16 AM

Good afternoon

I am commenting and asking questions regarding the above.

With regards to Part 3 Cat not to be a nuisance.

Does this mean that the cat owner if the cat happens to step onto a neighbours property would under the new proposed law be possibly charged with an infringement notice such as proposed Infringement Notices 4.1 Fine of \$200?

Considering a great many properties in Denmark shire do not have fences or are not fully fenced I would like to know just how is this proposed new law going to be enforced.

It is virtually impossible to stop a cat from wandering around even if just for a little while. It is not fair to expect Cats to never be allowed outside apart from a cat run which is virtually what the new law is imposing.

Yes I agree that all cats should be kept inside at night and preferably for most of the day but a little outdoor activity would not be the end of the end all of our native fauna. When my cat is outside I go outside with her and make sure she is not preying on the wildlife.

Also this law will turn neighbour against neighbour as what you are suggesting is that if a cat even so much as puts a paw onto the neighbours land that this could be considered an offence.

Interestingly does this also apply to dogs?

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Denmark Shire Enquiries](#)
Subject: ISUB2272217 - cat law
Date: Wednesday, 13 July 2022 6:15:22 PM

I wish to support any law that restricts cats from being allowed to roam freely in the Denmark area.

Cats should be restricted to inside or completely fenced areas, just as dogs have been for decades. We witness the carnage that our neighbours' cats have inflicted on local wildlife and have been highly disappointed at the freedom that cats have enjoyed in this shire.

A particular neighbour has successfully kept her cats in a fenced enclosure off her back laundry: this allows the cats to sit outside but they are completely restricted by the "cage".

I commend the development of a cat restriction law and hope that it comes into action very soon

[REDACTED]

Denmark 6333

[REDACTED]

From: [Claire Thompson](#)
To: [Denmark Shire Enquiries](#)
Subject: ISUB2272195 - FW: cat laws draft
Date: Thursday, 7 July 2022 9:54:59 AM

For recording. Thanks.

Should you require any further information relating to this email please do not hesitate to contact me.

Claire Thompson
Governance Coordinator
Shire of Denmark, PO Box 183, Denmark WA 6333
P (08) 9848 0324

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 July 2022 2:34 PM
To: Claire Thompson <claire.thompson@denmark.wa.gov.au>
Subject: cat laws draft

hi Claire,

I would like to say that I am in favour of the new cat law proposal that the shire has published.

I only hope the ranger then has authority to destroy stray cats that have no microchip or registration to reduce the burden of uncared for cats.

thankyou

regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Denmark Shire Enquiries](#)
Subject: ISUB2272181 - Cats
Date: Saturday, 2 July 2022 2:59:38 PM

Hi from my point of view It doesn't go far enough, they should be in a purpose built enclosure, to protect the wildlife and stop nuisance roaming, the same way all other domestic animals have to be contained, spending heaps on the channel sanctuary, while all other wild life is open slather. Thanks for the opportunity to have input.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Submissions received via *YourDenmark* website

The submitter names have been withheld in accordance with Council Policy. Any information within the submission that could identify the submitter has been redacted.

	Submitter	Submission
1	Name withheld	I support the proposal to limit cat numbers per property and the definition of nuisance cats as those that wander outside the property they live at. I would also support stronger regulation of cats to be kept indoors at all times (except in cat runs) to protect native wildlife - I believe this has been adopted by other local governments in WA.
2	Name withheld	This is yet another shameful infringement on our personal freedoms. The focus of cat control should be on ferals, of which there are plenty in the area, the same as foxes. The overwhelming majority of cat owners are responsible and take measures to prevent their pets wandering and endangering wildlife, including getting them sterilized. At the same time, this region also has a considerable rodent problem, and like it or not, the use of cats for rat and mouse control on farms and rural homes is the most effective solution that does not involve the use of poisons, which are overall more harmful to native animals and livestock. This proposed measure is nothing more than a blatant attempt to appease a small but vocal minority of over-entitled dog owners who are still in tantrum mode over losing their perceived right to walk their dogs in one small bird sanctuary. Cat owners are not demanding that their pets be allowed to run rampant in reserves and national parks (the way certain dog owners in this area seem to think they are entitled to), they simply want the right to keep their pets - as many or as few as they are capable of feeding, housing and containing.
3	Name withheld	Cats are a non native species and are a significant threat to our natural environment. In the recent past I have had to purchase a "cat catcher" to prevent these cruel animals from mutilating the local bird life. When the Ranger collected it they endeavoured to take it to the owner (if it were identifiable) who then had the freedom to let the cat wander free across the Shire once again. If owners want to keep a cat, then it should never leave their property. If it does it should be captured and a significant fine levied on the relevant owner. Stray cats should be dealt with in the appropriate manner humanely. Thank you.
4	Name withheld	what a waste of time! The issue is the breeding capacity of unsterilized cats. I don't see how you are going to control all rural properties with cats of breeding age. I would much rather have my rates spent on assisting cat owners in the community with the high cost of sterilizing their cat.

		Again the Shire of Denmark's automatic response is to introduce punitive measures rather than working with the community to address the issue.
5	Name withheld	I fully support the proposed changes to the laws regarding cats in our community. Anything that stops cats from wandering in our neighbourhood is a good thing. I am a cat owner however my cat does not leave my yard. My neighbours cat comes I to my yard and attacked my cat and poops in my vegie garden. It would be great to have a law that addresses this behaviour, as well as cats killing wildlife and wandering around our bush areas.
6	Name withheld	These proposed laws will not provide any protection for our local wildlife. What is needed is a law that states cats , like other domestic pets, must be kept on their own property at all times. Domestic cats that are not contained can travel great distances and because they are natural hunters they are capable of killing many small birds, reptiles and small furry critters. They will do this even when well fed. https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3600637/Cat-tracking-program-shocks-owners-learn-pets-wander-far-three-kilometres-homes.html
7	Name withheld	I am supportive of the proposal. In my opinion it is an appropriate step to curtail members of the public owning cats in large numbers that are frequently problematic for both the cats and people involved.
8	Name withheld	Thank you for proposing the Cat Local law, but please consider introducing stronger regulations that ensure cat owners keep their cat on their own property, preferably indoors. It is distressing to see roaming cats stalking birds, lizards and mardos, and also to see and hear them fighting each other.
9	Name withheld	(a) What is the Shire’s objective with these proposed measures? (b) Is this to drastically reduce the number of cats and cat owners in Denmark? (c) Is it about birds? (d) Will there be a clause that states “You are not permitted to kill, injure any cats that are on your property.” (e) Will there be a clause that mentions “Farm cats”? Farmers are still keeping cats primarily for pest control, but these cats are feral, not neutered, vaccinated or cared for. When these “farm cats” become overpopulated on or around a farm most wonder away into the forest or into town becoming a problem for birds, wildlife and domestic cat owners.
10	Name withheld	1) How are these cat laws going to be policed when we only have one Ranger in town?(2) What happens to a neighbour who kills or injures my cat?(3) What has made the Shire compile these laws in the first place? Is it to count the number of cats?(4) What if I comply with the cat laws, but another cat owner in my street doesn't?(5) If my cat becomes a nuisance to a neighbour will I be notified by the Ranger/Shire if my cat is taken away?(6) If the Ranger picks up my cat, where will it be taken and how can I get it back?

11	Name withheld	<p>Well done on raising this.</p> <p>Cats need to be regulated in the same way as dogs and possibly even more so. The science is indisputable - cats, feral and domestic are slaughtering native wildlife. They need to be controlled and contained.</p> <p>Feral cats need to be destroyed.</p> <p>Roaming cats need to be treated like roaming dogs - impounded, owners fined.</p> <p>Cats. like dogs should be confined to the property of the owner.</p>
12	Name withheld	<p>Dear Shire of Denmark Representatives</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission about the proposed Cat Local Law. I have read the draft proposal in the hope that it would be a useful document but, unfortunately, the document does not provide an adequate response to nuisance cats. My husband and I bought a block of land in [REDACTED] in 2012 and built a new home in 2015/16. We particularly chose [REDACTED] as the estate rules outlined that cats were not to be kept if they were able to wander. We thus believed that cat owners would have to provide an indoor/outdoor cat run which would restrict their cat from wandering. Over the last 6 years we have been very happy here; however, in the last year we have heard from various reliable neighbours that they have:- seen a variety of cats at large on this estate- heard cat fights at night I myself have not seen a cat; however, much to my horror I recently found a very large cat mound in my front garden where the animal has used my garden as a toilet. The creature visited this garden clandestinely, as cats do, and I did not see it. How then am I able to deal with this breach? We did have a group of Painted Button Quails living on our block, numerous finches, wrens, parrots, Noisy Scrub Birds etc. The Quails have reared young here in years past, but since I saw evidence of a cat, neither my husband or I have seen one Quail. I am really angry that an uninvited killer animal can come onto our property any time it likes to use our land as a toilet and kill precious birdlife. I fail to see how your proposed Cat Local Law will help us. We believe strongly that all owners of licensed cats should either be required to keep their pet indoors, or provide it with an indoor/outdoor run. No animal should be allowed to stray onto someone's private property. Our dog is fenced adequately, but our fence would not stop any cat. In fact no "fence" can stop a cat, they need to be caged in a run to be safely contained. If the Denmark Shire does not adopt a rule to enforce cat owners to house their pets appropriately, there can be no resolution for people who are disturbed by wandering cats. I can't stay up</p>

		all night and patrol my precious acre and therefore I have no chance of eradicating this dreadful nuisance cat and its disgusting mounds and deathly deeds.Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]
13	Name withheld	<p>Pet and feral cats together are killing over two billion reptiles, birds and mammals per year in Australia, and most of these animals are natives, according to 3 of Australia's top environmental scientists."Australia's mammal extinction rate is by far the highest in the world and cats have been a leading cause of at least 20, or two-thirds, of our mammal extinctions over the last 200 years," said Professor Legge, one of the researchers and authors of the book "Cats in Australia:Companions and Killer""On average, each feral cat in the bush kills a whopping 740 animals per year. In a year with average conditions there are about 2.8 million feral cats, but that figure can double when good rain leads to an abundance of prey animals."On average each pet cat kills about 75 animals per year, but many of these kills are never witnessed by their owners. "Whilst each urban cats kill fewer animals on average than a feral cat in the bush, in urban areas the density of cats is much higher (over 60 cats per square kilometre). As a result, cats in urban areas kill many more animals per square kilometre each year than cats in the bush."I strongly support the Shire going further and regulate the containment of cats to inside or enclosures. Dogs must be contained behind fences and walked on leads, so this is not a radical decision. It is so distressing to see cats in the public arena climbing trees or heading into the bush, knowing there will be carnage. Responsible dog ownership is strongly enforced, why has cat ownership not been given the same responsibilities?I strongly support the Shire going further and banning cat ownership in areas near National Parks and sensitive reserves and forests.We need to be the voice for our First Nations Animals. I know there will be outcry from some of the cat community who are in denial.</p>
14	Name withheld	<p>I support the proposed new cat laws to protect our native wildlife.</p> <p>In future I hope we can go further and introduce laws similar to the cat laws in Canberra where all new cats born after a certain date need to be kept indoors or in cat runs. See www.abc.net.au/news/2021-05-28/all-canberra-suburbs-to-contain-new-cats-from-2022/100172644</p>
15	Name withheld	<p>As a property owner in the Shire of Denmark I fully support the proposed cat law to protect our wildlife.</p> <p>I hope the cat laws can go further in future. There are good examples of this interstate, for example Canberra.</p>
16	Name withheld	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I support the proposed cat laws. There is no reason cats should not be regulated the same as dogs. There is plenty of evidence now that even domesticated cats cause significant impacts to wild life. I don't know why anyone would want more than two cats.</p>

17	Name withheld	Any restrictions on cats in our shire are desperately needed. We have feral cats around us and they do so much damage to marsupial communities. We used to see more native animals on our property in former years. I know this is anecdotal but the formal research is very clear. Personally I have seen a phascogale killed by a cat on Weedon Hill. As well as restricting numbers of cats in households, they should also be confined all the time, not just night time.
18	Name withheld	I am not sure what this law is for, its not clear from the documentation provided. What is the science to support this or the benchmark for introducing this law? I am not against this law per se, but I think efforts towards the council actively supporting feral cat / fox management would be a better use of time. Council could also support workshops to help cat owners build outdoor enclosures and educate owners by taking the positive approach. Council could also support people like me, trapping feral cats. Currently I need to rely on the goodwill of one of the rangers to help me to dispose of them. Thanks for providing the opportunity to comment.
19	Name withheld	I fully support the proposed cat local law. We have security cameras on our property and on a regular, almost daily basis get several different cats prowling the garden anytime between 6pm (when it is dark) and 4am, we also find feathers in our grounds from birds which have been killed. Whilst not all cat owners are irresponsible, sadly, there are at least three in our local area which are.
20	Name withheld	I believe that the proposed new local cat laws are a step in the right direction in keeping cat number checked so as to protect our bird wildlife.
21	Name withheld	The draft cat local law appears to focus on cats as a potential nuisance to persons or property. PROPOSE adding threat to native fauna because cats kill millions of marsupials each year. RECOMMENDED that Council adopt a Policy to reduce the standard number of cats to 1 per household by 2030 and to zero by 2040, providing an orderly removal of these feral animals from our local environment. It is not clear if the 'nuisance' clause requires all cats to be caged/ confined - this is the only way to prevent threat to native fauna (cats in gardens kill threatened species of birds and marsupials. I SUPPORT the Local Cat Law AND recommend it be strengthened as outlined above.
22	Name withheld	Completely support this proposal due to the high impact of free ranging cats on native birds and animals.
23	Name withheld	I support the proposed laws that limit cats to the property on which they are registered. I also support penalties for cat owners who do not ensure their cats stay on their premises. I support these proposed laws because cats kill millions of native fauna every year. I didn't see any reference to cats having to be sterilised (unless the owner is a registered breeder) so I would suggest

		adding that amendment to the new laws - just in case they get out (which we know they will). Feral cats kill more fauna than domestic cats.
24	Name withheld	<p>I live in Denmark township and am disturbed by the number of cats that are allowed to wander freely at all times of day and night. I have tried to make my backyard cat proof and have used a camera trap to assist with this. At least 5 different cats were regularly visiting my backyard during the night and at least 1 still does despite my best efforts. In order to protect wildlife from cats and prevent cats spreading diseases, especially toxoplasmosis, it is essential that cats remain on their owners property.</p> <p>My understanding is that a cat that wanders away from its owners property would be a nuisance cat under the proposed local law. I support this and hope that an education campaign around the new laws and enforcement action will stop the unacceptable practice of allowing cats to wander.</p>
25	Name withheld	I support the proposed Cat Local Law
26	Name withheld	<p>There is no need to limit the number of cats a household can have. An irresponsible owner might have one cat that causes a lot of trouble. A responsible owner may have several cats that cause no problem. All cats should be kept contained on their own properties, either inside the home or within enclosed outdoor enclosures. I am a cat lover. When I lived in the World Heritage Blue Mountains I bred cats and kept 11 at one stage. They never left my premises and had extensive cat playparks. They never killed any wildlife and were well cared for. I also did fostering for the RSPCA and the inspectors who dropped off or collected the foster cats were always impressed with my premises. It is never the number of cats (or dogs) it is the care people take in looking after them.</p>
27	Name withheld	<p>There should be a local limit to how many cats each household can have, certain paperwork maybe for “special breeds” breeding and extra fees to ensure some form of control. Each person should have to have their animals registered, microchipped, and desexed. No cats should be allowed to be outdoors without restraints of some sort (harness and lead long enough to go around whole yard but not long enough to get caught up on anything if unsupervised). There should be veterinary desexing programs for strays, whether it be catch and release or to try and rehome if possible, if not possible humane euthanasia could also be an option. Rangers need to be on board and on top of the situations as well as vet personnel. They would be good people to start a decent discussion about the whole process and what could be implemented and what won’t work.</p>
28	Name withheld	<p>I was very pleased to see that the Denmark Shire is at last talking about bringing in a cat law. Over 20 years ago I tried without success to get something passed that would make people more responsible and keep their cats on their own property have them sterilized and not own any more than 2 animals. As a wildlife rehabilitator I have had many birds and animals brought to me with injuries from cat attack and very few survived even with vet attention. I</p>

		realize cats as pets are very important to some people but they are very good predators and should not be allowed to wander at will. Our beautiful wildlife must be protected and I would like to see a scheme to reduce the feral population of cats and foxes around Denmark
29	Name withheld	I am fully supportive of the proposals outlined in the 'Cat Local Law' - largely because cats unregulated and allowed to roam freely (as is currently the case), pose a huge threat to our native fauna.
30	Name withheld	<p>Totally agree!!! YES!!! We often see cats/ferals in our back yard and have even found dead mauled Blue Wren's (our towns logo!) Please look at Fremantle Council's cat laws, they also prohibit cat's being outdoors at night time (when they hunt) and owners are fined if their cat is caught outside at night or sighted by a neighbour.</p> <p>I am a cat lover, we had a well fed cat for 14 years when I was growing up and she had a bell around her neck and was not allowed outside at night so she didn't have the chance to go hunting.</p>
31	Name withheld	<p>1. I live in town, surrounded by neighbours. I have cats coming into my property, digging and defecating in my vegetable garden. I don't know where these cats belong; they run away as soon as they see me. How would the Shire identify an individual cat from a vague description?</p> <p>2. What feedback would there be after I reported a sighting of a cat in my property?</p>
32	Name withheld	<p>Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the Shire of Denmark's draft Cats Local Law 2022.</p> <p>I admit to not being a fan of cats but acknowledge that they are an important part of the life of some people. We live on a bush block with very few near neighbours with the nearest property more than 200 metres from us. New tenants moved in with 2 cats and within a short time one of them escaped never to be seen again and the other was a regular visitor to our property. It couldn't be ██████████ we were told. We witnessed the cat taking some of our beautiful birds (fire tail finches and wrens) and borrowed a trap which was successful. We contacted the owners who were surprised but yes it was ██████████. The promise of a cat run was made but a few months later ██████████ was visiting again.</p> <p>Clause 2.3 of the Shire's document titled "Standard number of cats" states "no more than 2 cats may be kept on premises" within the district at which a member of a cat organisation is not ordinarily resident.</p> <p>Regulation 7 of the Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013 limits on number of cats kept at certain premises states "If a member of a cat organisation is ordinarily resident at prescribed premises, the number of cats that may be kept at the premises is 3 times the number of cats that could be kept at the premises under the local law that applies to the premises".</p> <p>It would not be difficult for cat owners to establish a "cat supporter organisation" in Denmark or affiliate with a</p>

		<p>recognised similar body in Perth. If my reading of the regulations is correct I believe all members of such an organisation would be able to keep 6 cats. This is a frightening thought for our wildlife. Please limit the standard number of cats to 1.</p> <p>Please help preserve our unique fauna.</p> <p>Thank you again.</p> <p>██████████</p>
33	Name withheld	<p>I encourage the council to consider enforcing that all cats are kept indoors at all times, much like the ACT has legislated earlier this year which comes into effect in July, 2022. While at first glance such a regulation may seem extreme, keep in mind a recent parliamentary report found that Australia's almost 3.8 million pet cats kill up to 390 million animals every year in Australia. I am sure most will agree cats can be lovely domestic pets there is no denying they are a scourge upon our native environment and do not belong anywhere other than inside of our homes.</p>
34	Name withheld	<p>I fully support the Shire of Denmark Cat Local Law. I have had cats wandering around my premises that did not belong to me, and I had no idea who the owner was. The cats created nuisances for me by urinating everywhere, which left a terrible smell around my premises. These cats were most likely roaming far from their owner's land.</p>

Local Government Act 1995
Cat Act 2011

Shire of Denmark

Cats Local Law 2022

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Amended:

Disclaimer:

This version is an administrative version and while every attempt to ensure it is correct, only the Gazetted version as amended should be relied on. In particular, text boxes and notes in this version do not form part of the local law.

Contents

Part 1 - Preliminary	2
1.1 Title.....	2
1.2 Commencement	2
1.3 Repeal.....	2
1.4 Terms used	2
1.5 Application.....	4
Part 2 - Number of cats that may be kept.....	4
2.1 Interpretation	4
2.2 Prescribed premises.....	4
2.3 Standard number of cats	5
2.4 Application for approval	5
2.5 Determining an application	6
2.6 Conditions	6
2.7 Renewal of an application	7
2.8 Transfer of an approval	7
2.9 Variation or cancellation of an approval.....	8
2.10 Objection and review rights.....	8
Part 3 - Cat not to be a nuisance	9
3.1 Cat not to be a nuisance.....	9
Part 4 - Enforcement.....	9
4.1 Infringement notices	9

CAT ACT 2011
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995
Shire of Denmark
CATS LOCAL LAW 2022

Under the powers conferred by the *Cat Act 2011*, the *Local Government Act 1995* and all other powers enabling it, the Council of the Shire of Denmark resolved on **dd mm** 2022 to make the following local law.

Part 1 - Preliminary

1.1 Title

This is the *Shire of Denmark Cats Local Law 2022*.

1.2 Commencement

This local law comes into operation 14 days after the date of its publication in the *Government Gazette*.

1.3 Repeal

Clause 5.2.4 of the *Shire of Denmark Health Local Laws* published in the *Government Gazette* on 2 July 1999 is repealed.

1.4 Terms used

(1) In this local law, unless the context otherwise requires -

Act means the *Cat Act 2011*;

applicant means a person who applies for an approval;

application means an application for an approval;

approval means approval under regulation 9 of the *Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013* and Part 2 of this local law;

approved person means the person to whom an approval is granted;

authorised person means a person appointed by the local government to perform the functions conferred on an authorised person under this local law;

cat has the meaning given to it in the Act;

cat means an animal of the species *felis catus* or a hybrid of that species.

s3(1) of the *Cat Act 2011*.

cat management facility has the meaning given to it in the Act;

cat management facility means —

- (a) a facility operated by a local government that is, or may be, used for keeping cats; or
- (b) a facility for keeping cats that is operated by a person or body prescribed; or

(c) a facility for keeping cats that is operated by a person or body approved in writing by a local government;

S3(1) of the *Cat Act 2011*

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the local government;

district means the district of the local government;

local government means the Shire of Denmark;

local planning scheme means a local planning scheme made by the local government under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*;

nuisance means –

- (a) an activity or condition which is harmful or annoying and which gives rise to legal liability in the tort of public or private nuisance at law;
- (b) an unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of a person of his or her ownership or occupation of land; or
- (c) interference which causes material damage to land or other property on the land affected by the interference;

owner has the meaning given to it in the Act;

4. Term used: owner

(1) In this Act —

owner, in relation to a cat, means any of these persons —

- (a) in the case of a cat that is registered, the registered owner of the cat; or
- (b) in the case of a cat that is not registered, a person who, or an owner of a business or organisation that, ordinarily keeps and cares for the cat; or
- (c) if a person referred to in paragraph (b) is a child under 18 years of age, that child's parent or guardian.

(2) In the case of a cat that is not registered, but is microchipped, a person whose name is recorded as the owner of the cat in a microchip database is to be taken, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to be a person who ordinarily keeps and cares for the cat.

s4 Cat Act 2011

premises has the meaning given to it in the Act; and

premises includes the following —

- (a) land (whether or not vacant);
- (b) the whole or part of a building or structure (whether of a permanent or temporary nature);
- (c) a vehicle;

s3(1) Cat Act 2011.

veterinarian has the meaning given to it in the Act.

veterinarian means a registered veterinary surgeon as defined in the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960 section 2.

s3(1) of the Cat Act 2011.

- (2) A term that is used in this local law and is not defined in subclause (1) has the same meaning given to it in the Act or, if not defined in the Act, the same meaning given to it in the *Cat Regulations 2012*, the *Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013* or the *Local Government Act 1995*.

1.5 Application

This local law applies throughout the district.

Part 2 - Number of cats that may be kept

2.1 Interpretation

For the purposes of applying this Part, a **cat** does not include a cat less than 6 months old.

2.2 Prescribed premises

For the purposes of the definition of **prescribed premises** in regulation 4(1) of the *Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013*, this local law limits the number of cats that may be kept at any premises within the district except —

- (a) a cat management facility operated by a body prescribed as a cat management facility operator under the *Cat Regulations 2012*;
- (b) a cat management facility operated by the local government; or
- (c) a veterinary clinic or veterinary hospital as defined under section 2 of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960*, but only in relation to cats kept on those premises for treatment.

Regulation 4 of the Cat Regulations 2012 states –

4. Cat management facility operators (s. 3(1))

For the purposes of the definition of cat management facility paragraph (b) in section 3(1) of the Act, each of the following bodies are prescribed as operators of a facility for keeping cats –

- (a) Cat Welfare Society Inc., trading as “Cat Haven”;
- (b) Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Inc) of Western Australia

2.3 Standard number of cats

For the purposes of the definition of **standard number of cats** in regulation 4(1) of the *Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013*, no more than 2 cats may be kept on premises within the district at which a member of a cat organisation is not ordinarily resident.

Regulation 7 of the *Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013* states -

‘If a member of a cat organisation is ordinarily resident at prescribed premises, the number of cats that may be kept at the premises is 3 times the number of cats that could be kept at the premises under the local law that applies to the premises’.

A “member of a cat organisation” is defined to mean a person referred to in regulation 23(c) of the *Cat Regulations 2012*;

Regulation 23(3) of the *Cat Regulations 2012* refers to a person who -

- (c) is a current member of one of the following organisations and associations —
 - (i) the Cat Owners Association of Western Australia (COAWA);
 - (ii) the Feline Control Council of Western Australia (FCCWA);
 - (iii) the Australian National Cats (ANCATS).

2.4 Application for approval

- (1) An application for approval to keep an additional number of cats at prescribed premises is dealt with in regulation 8 of the *Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013*.
- (2) An application for approval must be accompanied by the application fee determined by the local government in accordance with the Act.

Note - under the *Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013* –

- (1) A cat that is under 6 months of age is not to be included when calculating the number of cats ordinarily kept at prescribed premises (regulation 5);
- (2) A person who is ordinarily resident at prescribed premises may apply to the local government for approval to keep an additional number of cats at its premises (regulation 8(1)); and
- (3) There are detailed provisions dealing with the application and approval processes and requirements (see regulations 8-11).

2.5 Determining an application

Note - under regulation 9 of the *Cat (Uniform Local Provision) Regulations 2013*, the local government must not grant approval for an additional number of cats on prescribed premises unless it is satisfied that the premises are suitable for the additional number of cats.

- (1) For the purpose of determining whether to grant approval for an application to keep an additional number of cats at prescribed premises, the local government must have regard to -
- (a) the zoning of the land under the local planning scheme;
 - (b) the physical suitability of the premises for the proposed use;
 - (c) the environmental sensitivity and general nature of the location surrounding the premises for the proposed use;
 - (d) the structural suitability of any enclosure in which any cat is to be kept;
 - (e) the likelihood of a cat causing a nuisance, inconvenience or annoyance to an occupier of adjoining land;
 - (f) the likely effect on the amenity of the surrounding area of the proposed use;
 - (g) the likely effect on the local environment including any pollution or other environmental damage, which may be caused by the proposed use; and
 - (h) any other factors which the local government considers to be relevant in the circumstances of the application.
- (2) An approval is to be in the form determined by the local government and is to be issued to the approved person.

2.6 Conditions

Regulation 9(3) of the *Cat (Uniform Local Provision) Regulations 2013* states:

An approval is subject to any condition that the local government –

- (a) reasonably considers is necessary to ensure that the premises are suitable for the additional number of cats; and

(b) specifies in the approval.

- (1) For the purpose of ensuring that the premises to which an application relates are suitable for the additional number of cats, the local government may impose any condition that it considers to be reasonably necessary for that purpose, including -
- (a) that the premises must be adequately fenced (and premises will be taken not to be adequately fenced if there is more than one escape of a cat from the premises);
 - (b) that there must be adequate space for the exercise of the cats;
 - (c) that, in the case of multiple dwellings where there is no suitable dividing fence, each current occupier of the adjoining multiple dwellings must give their written consent to the approval; and
 - (d) that, without the consent of the local government, the approved person must not substitute or replace any cat that dies or is permanently removed from the premises.
- (2) An approved person who does not comply with a condition of the approval, commits an offence.

Penalty: a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not exceeding \$5,000, and if the offence is of a continuing nature, to an additional penalty not exceeding \$500 for each day or part of a day during which the offence has continued.

2.7 Renewal of an application

- (1) An application is to be renewed if –
- (a) the approved person has not breached the conditions of the approval;
 - (b) the approval would have been granted if a fresh application for approval had been made; and
 - (c) the renewal fee, imposed and determined by the local government under sections 6.16 to 6.19 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, is paid to the local government before the expiry of the approval.
- (2) On the renewal of an approval, the conditions of the approval that applied immediately before the renewal continue to have effect.

Regulation 10 of the Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013 states that an approval has effect for the period specified in the approval.

2.8 Transfer of an approval

- (1) An approval relates only to the premises specified in the approval, and only to the approved person specified in the approval, and is transferrable only in accordance with this clause 2.8.
- (2) An application for the transfer of an approval from the approved person to another person must be –

- (a) made in the form determined by the local government;
 - (b) made by the proposed transferee;
 - (c) made with the consent of the approved person; and
 - (d) lodged with the local government together with the fee for the application for the transfer of an approval that is imposed and determined by the local government under sections 6.16 to 6.19 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- (3) The local government is not to determine an application for the transfer of an approval until the proposed transferee has complied with subclause (2).
- (4) The local government may grant, or refuse to grant, an application for the transfer of an approval, and this approval will be subject to such conditions as the local government may impose under Regulation 9(3) of the *Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013*.
- (5) Where the local government grants an application for the transfer of an approval –
- (a) it is to issue to the transferee an approval in the form determined by the CEO; and
 - (b) on the date of approval, unless otherwise specified in the approval, the transferee becomes the approved person for the purposes of this local law.

2.9 Variation or cancellation of an approval

- (1) The local government may, at any time, vary the conditions of an approval by giving written notice to the permit holder and specifying the date on which the changes will become effective.
- (2) The local government may cancel an approval –
- (a) on the request of the approved person;
 - (b) if the approved person breaches the Act, the *Cat Regulations 2012*, the *Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013* or this local law; or
 - (c) if the approved person is not a fit and proper person to provide for the health and welfare of the cats.
- (3) If an approval is cancelled, the fee paid for the approval is not refundable for the term of the approval that has not yet expired.

2.10 Objection and review rights

A decision of the local government made under clauses 2.7, 2.8 or 2.9 is a decision to which Division 1, Part 9 of the *Local Government Act 1995* applies.

Regulation 11 of the *Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013* states –

11. Review by the State Administrative Tribunal

A person who applies for approval to keep an additional number of cats may apply to the State Administrative Tribunal for a review of a decision of the local government to —

- (a) refuse to grant approval; or
- (b) grant approval to keep an additional number of cats that is less than the number specified in the application; or
- (c) grant approval subject to conditions.

Part 3 - Cat not to be a nuisance

3.1 Cat not to be a nuisance

The owner or occupier of premises on which a cat is ordinarily kept shall prevent the cat from creating a nuisance on other premises, to another person or exposing another person to health and/or safety risks by:

- (a) The noise or odour generated by the presence of the cat/s;
- (b) The aggressive nature of the cat/s; or
- (c) A cat that wanders outside the premises where it is ordinarily kept.

Part 4 - Enforcement

4.1 Infringement notices

- (1) An offence against clauses 2.6(2) and 3.1 are prescribed offences for the purposes of section 62(1) of the Act and the modified penalty for the offence is a fine of \$200.
- (2) The form of an infringement notice is Form 6 in the *Cat Regulations 2012*, Schedule 1.
- (3) The form of withdrawal of the infringement notice is Form 7 in the *Cat Regulations 2012*, Schedule 1.

Regulations 6 and 13 of the Cat (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 2013 state:

6. Offence to keep more than standard number of cats

- (1) A person who is ordinarily resident at prescribed premises must ensure that the number of cats ordinarily kept at the premises is not more than the standard number of cats for the premises.

Penalty: a fine of \$5 000.

13. Infringement notices

- (1) An offence against regulation 6(1) is a prescribed offence for the purposes of section 62(1) of the Act and the modified penalty for the offence is a fine of \$200.
- (2) The form of an infringement notice is Form 6 in the *Cat Regulations 2012* Schedule 1.

- (3) The form of withdrawal of an infringement notice is Form 7 in the Cat Regulations 2012 Schedule 1

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