

Responsible Cat Ownership

This checklist is designed as a guidance tool to assist owners with a decision on whether to keep a cat on their property. These requirements are based on the *Animal Management (Dogs and Cats) Act 2008* and Councils' local laws as well as the objective of 'Responsible Cat Ownership'.

Animal enclosure and handling		✓
Objective	Standards	
Proper housing contributes to good health and well-being of cats	Minimum dimensions are met	
	Keep and maintain sanitary conditions	
	Materials and construction are appropriate	
	Meets the requirements for the cat's health and well-being, such as sufficient shelter from the weather	
Noise management prevents nuisance to neighbours and the community	Manage animal to prevent noise nuisance	
	Structural provisions in place limit nuisance	
	Sufficient exercise and stimulation to prevent boredom	
Security methods prevent accidental or unauthorised access to cats, facilities or dangerous materials	Cats are kept reasonably secured to prevent access by unauthorised people	
	All potential poisons and harmful substances, whether in storage or in use, must be kept out of reach of cats	
Minimum standard tips	Enclosure is constructed of relevant cat proof mesh	
	Check for any gaps in the fencing	
	Can your cat go under, over or through the enclosure?	

Sourcing of cats		✓
Objective	Standards	
Cats are sourced responsibly to ensure the welfare of the cats and to prevent poor breeding practices	Sources have a local government breeders permit and/or are recognised breed societies	
	Cats supplied are healthy, bright, alert, social and are provided with a health guarantee	
	Documentation of health care, medical history and genetic problems are maintained	

Sourcing of cats		✓
Objective	Standards	
RSPCA or Animal Shelter	Contact your local pound/shelter or RSPCA to identify if there is a cat that needs a home	

Food and water		✓
Objective	Standards	
Cats receive appropriate and sufficient food and water to maintain good health and growth, recognising the special needs of differing ages, species and states, such as kittens or older cats	Diets are nutritionally balanced and appropriate to the particular needs of each animal	
	Fresh water is available at all times	
	Food must be stored appropriately to prevent its deterioration and contamination	

Hygiene		✓
Objective	Standards	
Pest prevention and control measures should be implemented on specialist advice and manufacturer's instructions to protect the health and safety of cats and cat carers	Routine and preventative treatment plan in place	
	Waste waters are drained in a nuisance free manner and the run-off is kept off adjoining land	
	Cat faeces are collected and disposed of in a sanitary manner	
	Cats are a known carrier of toxoplasmosis. Ensure gloves are provided for persons who are responsible for cleaning. Toxoplasmosis is especially dangerous for pregnant women and children.	

Health care		✓
Objective	Standards	
Cats are cared for to maximise their health and well-being and minimise health risks to other cats and the community	Established liaison with a veterinary practitioner	
	Routine preventative treatment plan is in place	
	Health and welfare of your cat is monitored regularly to detect signs of disease, injury and distress with treatment provided where necessary	
	Euthanasia is only used for the relief of incurable illness, chronic pain and suffering and only performed by a veterinarian	

Health care		✓
Objective	Standards	
	Scheduled vaccinations are performed by a veterinarian	
	Have your cat microchipped by a veterinarian	
	Desexing kittens and cats contributes to reducing unwanted litters	

Rearing of young cats (kittens)		✓
Objective	Standards	
Kittens are cared for to maximise their health and well-being and minimise health risks to other cats and the community	Routine preventative treatment plan, in addition to the health and welfare monitoring of your cat, is in place	
	Complete and maintain written medical records for each animal	

Transfer of ownership		✓
Objective	Standards	
The transfer of ownership of your cat/s should be used to promote socially responsible pet ownership	Appropriately identify cats as per legislative requirements and notify new owners of their obligations (i.e. microchipping). Microchipping cannot occur prior to 12 weeks of age	

Owner acknowledgement
I have reviewed and completed the above self-assessment checklist. I acknowledge I understand the responsibilities imposed upon me in accordance with the <i>Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008</i> , <i>Animal Care and Protection Act 2011</i> and Council's local laws.
Date:
Signature: