

Rangitikei adopted the below approach as a part of its first Animal Control Bylaw in 2013.

6 CATS

- 6.1 No person shall keep more than three cats over three months of age on any household unit in any urban area, unless given a written dispensation by an enforcement officer.
- 6.2 Clause 6.1 shall not apply to any veterinary clinic, SPCA shelter, or registered breeder as accredited under the Cattery Accreditation Scheme operated by the New Zealand Cat Fancy.

NOTE: Boarding or breeding establishments for more than 15 cats requires resource consent under the operative District Plan.

Below are the recommendations from the 2019/2020 Annual Plan

Resolved minute number

19/RDC/145

File Ref

That Council does not provide \$5,000 funding for the de-sexing and micro-chipping of cats (not including unwanted) for a period of three weeks following extensive public notification.

Cr Ash / Cr Rainey. Carried

Helping with euthanising cats

It was noted that dumping of unwanted cats is a problem in the rural areas, and was raised at a number of the public meetings in the rural communities.

Resolved minute number

19/RDC/146

File Ref

That Council approves a trial period of four weeks up to \$1,600 covering the full cost of euthanising unwanted cats trapped in Council traps following extensive publicity and officers report back.

His Worship the Mayor / Cr McManaway. Carried

Cr Gordon declared a conflict of interest for this section of the item and did not take part in the discussion but remained in the room.

TABLED DOCUMENT

Tabled at Council

on 17 December 2020

A letter was sent to the Minister of Local Government, Hon Nanaia Mahuta, in August 2018. A Copy of the letter and response are below.

FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

16 August 2018

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Local Government
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160



File Ref: 1-DB-1-9

Dear Nanaia

Stray Cats – Central Government leadership requested

Council is currently reviewing its Animal Control Bylaw and has been discussing the issue of stray cats in urban areas. These cats are causing both nuisance issues and adverse effects on ecosystems. This is a complex issue which can only be addressed with a collaborative, long-term approach between all stakeholders.

Council is concerned that there are currently limited powers available for local government to address the issue of stray cats in urban areas. Council's existing Bylaw limits the number of cats per property; however, Council does not consider that extending these restrictions further would be viable. Palmerston North City Council has recently introduced provisions in their bylaw for the microchipping and de-sexing of cats. However, the enforcement of these provisions is questionable, particularly given that Council has no powers to remove cats which are non-compliant.

Council is aware of the considerable work done in developing a national cat management strategy and the desire from the New Zealand Companion Animal Council to see permanent identification of companion animals and mandatory desexing of cats (and dogs) prior to sexual maturity except when part of an accredited breeding programme or where there are valid health reasons. Council would like Central Government to make serious consideration of taking a lead role in addressing the issue and increasing mechanisms available to do so. So, Council suggests Central Government consider:

- Implementing legislation to control cats (possibly similar to that provided for dogs), which could require mandatory de-sexing and microchipping of cats/kittens at the point of sale,
- Providing increased funding for non-profit organisations involved with de-sexing programmes,
- Implementing national education programmes, and
- Introducing permanent identification.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Andy Watson
Mayor of Rangitikei

Making this place home.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

MP for Hauraki-Waikato

Minister for Māori Development

Minister of Local Government

Associate Minister for the Environment



14 SEP 2018

Andy Watson
Mayor of Rangitikei
Private Bag 1102
MARTON 4741
andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Andy

Thank you for your letter dated 16 August 2018 about legislation and funding solutions to the issue of stray cats. I acknowledge the difficult position for councils in balancing competing interests regarding companion and stray cats, and the effects of cats on ecosystems.

I note that the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Ministry for Primary Industries have been involved as observers of the National Cat Management Strategy Group during the development of the National Cat Management Strategy. The ecological knowledge that both these agencies hold places them in a strong position to participate in this work. DOC's work managing feral cats on public conservation land has, for example, spill-over benefits and useful knowledge for the management of stray cats in urban areas.

I read your suggestions for action to address this issue with interest. Programmes for the de-sexing and microchipping of cats are undoubtedly an effective strategy for managing populations of stray cats. Education programmes are also important and an integral part of promoting responsible cat ownership.

I can advise that further legislation relating to the management of feral cats is not being considered by the Government at this time. However, I note that in July 2017 Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) passed a remit to promote national legislation to manage cats, including cost recovery. This is a useful vehicle for initiating the conversation with central government and exploring options for cat management. I encourage you to engage with LGNZ to ensure this work remains a priority for the sector.

Thank you again for writing.

Heoi anō

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Local Government

PART 4

CATS

8. CATS ON PREMISES

- 8.1 No person may keep more than three cats per dwelling on any private land in the urban area without a permit issued under this Bylaw.
- 8.2 If the Council issues a permit to a person to keep more than three cats under clause 8.1 then the permit holder must comply with the conditions of that permit.
- 8.3 No cats kept for breeding purposes shall be housed within 1.8 metres of the boundary of any adjoining property in the urban area unless the housing is within a dwelling house.
- 8.4 The restrictions of clauses 8.1 and 8.3 shall not apply to kittens below the age of three months.
- 8.5 Nothing in clause 8.1 applies to the SPCA or other animal shelter or a lawfully established veterinary clinic or cattery.
- 8.6 Nothing in clause 8 precludes the need for a resource consent under the District Plan.
- 8.7 Every person who keeps cats must ensure:
 - a. Cats over six months of age are microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animals Register, or other Council approved microchip registry.
 - b. Cats over six months are desexed (unless kept for breeding purposes and are registered with a nationally recognised cat breeders' body including New Zealand Cat Fancy Ltd. and Catz Inc.).
- 8.8 Clause 8.7 applies to all cats born after 1 July 2018.

8 Cats

- (1) Except with the approval of Council, no person shall keep more than three (3) cats over the age of three months on a premises within an urban area.
- (2) Any cat over four (4) months must be:
 - (a) microchipped and the cat's microchip registered with New Zealand Companion Animal Register;
and
 - (b) de-sexed unless:
 - (i) the cat is kept for breeding purposes; and registered with a nationally recognised cat breeders body;
or
 - (ii) the owner provides a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the de-sexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare.

- (3) Clause 8(1) and (2) do not apply to lawfully established:
 - (a) vets; or
 - (b) SPCA or similar charity; or
 - (c) cat boarding premises.

Explanatory note: The boarding of cats require resource consent under the Whanganui District Plan.

- (4) If, in the opinion of Council, the keeping of cats on a premises is or is likely to cause or become a Nuisance, Council may in writing require all or any of the following:
 - (a) reduce the number of cats kept on the premises; or
 - (b) take other such precautions as may be considered by Council to reduce the Nuisance effects.

Part Three – Cats

10 Number of Cats on Premises

- 10.1 Any person Keeping cats must not Keep, on any one Rateable Property in the District, more than four cats over the age of three months.
- 10.2 On a Rateable Property that contains more than one dwelling, no more than one cat over the age of three months per dwelling is allowed to be Kept.
- 10.3 Clauses 10.1 and 10.2 do not apply to:
- (a) Any cats over the age of three months being kept for no longer than 14 days; and
 - (b) Lawfully established Vets, SPCA or similar registered charities, and boarding premises.
- 10.4 Every person who Keeps cats must ensure:
- (a) Cats over six (6) months are de-sexed (unless Kept for breeding purposes and are registered with a nationally recognised cat breeders' body).

11 Cats becoming a Nuisance or Injurious to Health

- 11.1 If, in the opinion of any Enforcement Officer, the Keeping of any cats on a Premises is, or is likely to become a Nuisance do all or any of the following:
- (a) reduce the number of cats kept on the Premises;
 - (b) take other such precautions as may be considered necessary by the Council Officer to reduce the Nuisance effects.
- 11.2 Compliance with a notice under clause 11.1 must take place within the time specified in such notice, not being less than 14 days.

8 CATS

8.1 No household shall keep more than three (3) cats where, in the opinion of an authorised officer acting on a complaint, the number becomes offensive to the occupier of a neighbouring property, a threat to public health, or an endangerment to neighbouring animals.

8.2 If the keeping of cats on a premises is, or is likely to become:

- a. A nuisance,
- b. Injurious, or
- c. Hazardous

To the health, property or safety of any person then an authorised officer may, by notice in writing, require the person who owns the premises to do all or any of the following:

- d. Reduce the number of cats kept on the premises,
- e. Require the cats to be neutered or speyed where permitted to do so in law,
- f. Take other such precautions as are deemed necessary and specified by the authorised officer to reduce the effects listed in sub-clauses a-c above.

It is the duty of the owner or occupier of the premises to abate the nuisance as required in the notice within the time period specified in that notice.

Explanatory note: the procedure for signing and service of notices is contained in the Administration Bylaw.

13. CATS AND KITTENS

13.1 No person shall keep Cats and Kittens where the number kept becomes offensive to the occupier of a neighbouring property, a threat to public health, or an endangerment to neighbouring animals.

13.2 If the keeping of any cats on a premises is, or is likely to become:

- (a) A nuisance;
- (b) Injurious; or
- (c) Hazardous.

to the health, property or safety of any person, then the Authorised Officer may by, notice in writing, require the person who owns the premises to do all or any of the following:

- (a) Reduce the number of cats kept on the premises;
- (b) Take other such precautions as may be considered necessary by the Authorised Officer to reduce the effects listed in sub-clauses (a) to (c) above.

25 CATS

This section is made pursuant to [Section 146 of the Local Government Act 2002](#)

25.1 No person or household shall keep more than 4 cats older than 6 months without a permit from Council.

25.2 No person shall feed and/or attract [feral](#) cat(s) to their premises.

