

WARRINGAH COUNCIL AREA VETERINARIANS

E A Yeh
527 Pittwater Road
BROOKVALE NSW 2100
Ph: 9939 1321

Northern Suburbs Vet Clinic
Cnr Warringah & May Roads
DEE WHY NSW 2099
Ph: 9971 6562

Collaroy Beach Vet Clinic
1195 Pittwater Road
COLLARROY NSW 2097
Ph: 9971 8487

Harbord Vet Clinic
4 Moore Road
HARBORD NSW 2096
Ph: 9938 4262

Forest Animal Hospital
612 Warringah Road
FORESTVILLE NSW 2087
Ph: 9451 4840

Belrose Vet Hospital
70 Pringle Avenue
BELROSE NSW 2085
Ph: 9452 3155

Frenchs Forest Vet Hospital
9 Forest Way
FRENCHS FOREST NSW 2086
Ph: 9452 1621

Dee Why Vet Clinic
815 Pittwater Road
DEE WHY NSW 2099
Ph: 9971 7745

Beacon Hill Animal Hospital
Cnr Willandra and Warringah Roads
BEACON HILL NSW 2100
Ph: 9905 3100

Terrey Hills Animal Hospital
97 Booralie Road
TERREY HILLS NSW 2084
Ph: 9450 2020

Collaroy Plateau Vet Clinic
Rear 249 Aubreen Street
COLLARROY PLATEAU NSW 2097
Ph: 9982 9439

Allambie Vet Clinic
92 Allambie Road
ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS NSW 2100
Ph: 9905 0505

Forestville Vet Hospital
635 Warringah Road
FORESTVILLE NSW 2087
Ph: 9451 3512

WILDLIFE RESCUE ORGANISATIONS

SMWS - Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services - Ph. 9413 4300
WIRES - Wildlife Information and Rescue Services - Ph. 9975 1633

ANIMAL SHELTERS

RSPCA - Ph. 9709 5433
Pittwater Animal Shelter - Ph. 9986 3746 9986 3747
Animal Welfare League Manly Warringah & Pittwater Branch - Ph. 9913 8731

PROTECT

YOUR

CAT-

PROTECT

YOUR

WILDLIFE



Warringah Council



This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through the Companion Animals Community Education Grants Program administered by the Department of Local Government.

Mayor's Message

Almost two thirds of the 6.6 million households in Australia own a pet. Of these, over 42% own one or more cats. Warringah Council recognises the benefits of having a cat as a pet. Cats make wonderful companions for all ages. What we must not forget is that cats are natural predators. They hunt for the thrill, not necessarily because they are hungry.

Warringah has many beautiful, natural bushland areas that contain native wildlife. I encourage all cat owners to be mindful of their pet's whereabouts at all times. Cats that are kept indoors at night live, on average, 3 years longer. By keeping your cat indoors at night, you not only protect your cat, you protect your native wildlife too.

CR. JULIE SUTTON, MAYOR

Especially for Children

My Cat

Cat's Name.....
Breed.....
Date of birth / /
Microchip No.....
Coat Colour.....
Eye colour.....
Distinctive markings

.....
Other pets

You can attach a photo of your cat here.

A Nation of Animal Lovers

The Felines

Australians have one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world. The cat, one of the most popular companion animals, is the chosen pet of around 37% of Australian households.

The Natives

Australians are proud of their unique, native wildlife. Mammals such as possums, bandicoots, marsupial mice, gliders and bats exist in bushland areas, occasionally venturing into our gardens. Reptiles, birds and frogs also share our gardens and bushland.

Caring for all Animals

Cats are hunters and an important factor in the decline of our native animal populations. Curfews, desexing and bells alone are not effective in protecting our native animals. If you are a cat owner, you are obviously already an animal lover. It's not irresponsible to own a cat. It's only irresponsible not to be a caring owner.

With a little common sense management you can enjoy your feline family members and Australia's wonderful wildlife.



Cats in our Community

Companionship

Cats provide their owners with companionship, fun and a sense of care and responsibility. Higher levels of self-esteem are also reported in children with pets, having better social skills and more empathy with others.

Independence

Many owners value cats for their relatively easy maintenance, quiet behaviour, cleanliness and independence.

Health

Pet ownership is associated with health benefits including lower stress levels, lower blood pressure, quick recovery from illness and fewer visits to the doctor.

Hunting Ability

Many societies value the cat's hunting ability. In Australia, however, cats contribute to the decline of our native animal populations. We must prevent our cats from hunting by keeping them out of the sensitive habitat areas of native animals.

The Secret Life of Cats

Where is your cat now? Many owners are unaware that their cat hunts. Not all cats hunt, but most do and not all bring their prey home.

Research has shown that cats seek out areas for hunting, such as pockets of urban bushland and that they make repeated visits to successful hunting grounds.

Cats are opportunistic hunters, preying on whatever animals they encounter. They wander about the environment, their senses fine-tuned for movement, scent or noise of prey. Cats are also extremely patient and can sit and wait for hours, at the entrance of a burrow.

Cats do not have to be hungry to hunt. Well-fed cats still hunt.



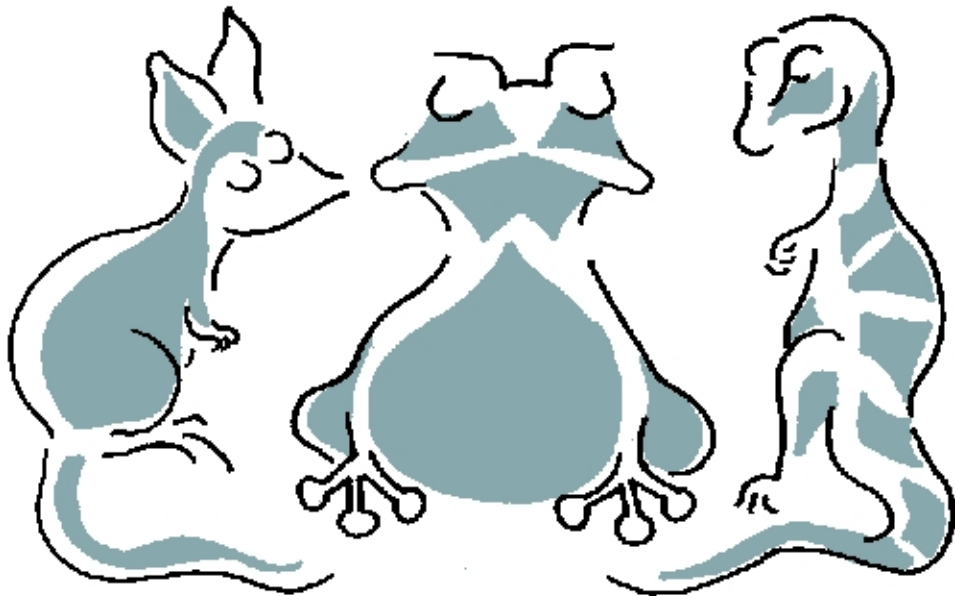
Vulnerability of Native Animals

Predation

Cats, in Australia, have been known to catch over 50 species of mammals, 100 species of birds, 50 species of reptiles and numerous frogs and invertebrates.

Australian animals have not evolved with cats and so have not developed effective predator detection nor predator defence mechanisms.

Young animals are particularly vulnerable, especially baby birds and the young of our larger marsupials, such as ringtail and brushtail possums.



Disease

Our native fauna is also vulnerable to disease, transmitted by cats. The parasitic infection, Toxoplasmosis, for instance, can result in blindness, damage to the central nervous system and damage to respiratory organs of our native animals. Infection, although rare, can also occur in humans.

Wound infection is common after a cat attack as a cat's saliva is full of bacteria. Few native animals survive a cat attack.



Designated Wildlife Protection Areas

Warringah Council is committed to preserving our natural environment and this includes our native wildlife and their habitat. For this reason, Council has declared 14 areas of bushland Wildlife Protection Areas. These areas contain significant populations of native wildlife such as brushtail and ringtail possums as well as many bird and lizard species.

To ensure the ongoing wellbeing of these precious animals, cats are prohibited from entering the designated areas. Appropriate signage is displayed on the boundaries of each wildlife protection area.

The designated Wildlife Protection Areas in Warringah are:

- ◆ Jamieson Park, Narrabeen
- ◆ Manly War Memorial Reserve (Manly Dam)
- ◆ Lincoln Reserve, Collaroy Plateau
- ◆ Recreation Reserve behind Hendy Avenue, Collaroy Plateau
- ◆ Forestville Park, Forestville
- ◆ Dee Why Bicentennial Track
- ◆ Allenby Park, Allambie Heights
- ◆ Towradgi Reserve, Narraweena
- ◆ Red Hill Reserve, Beacon Hill
- ◆ Golden Grove Reserve, Beacon Hill
- ◆ Stony Range Flora & Fauna Reserve, Dee Why
- ◆ Long Reef Headland, Collaroy
- ◆ Dee Why Wildlife Refuge, Dee Why
- ◆ Grace Avenue Reserve, Frenchs Forest

Please, do the right thing and keep your pets away from these areas at all times.

Cats at Your Home

Indoor Cats

We can choose to keep our feline friends indoors at all times. Cats can quite happily exist at home with companionship and stimulation.

Garden Cats

Alternatively, we can allow our cats access to our garden by ensuring adequate boundary walls and fences. Overhangs or netting can be used to prevent cats climbing out. Check for overhanging trees.

Indoor/Outdoor Cats

Special mesh enclosures can be constructed to extend your cats living space. The Australian Modular Cat Park is commercially available from CATNIP, or you can make your own. Use of connecting tunnels, plants and a variety of heights and views can turn enclosures into a secure adventure playground for cats.



The Secret of Happy Cats

Shelves & Views

Cats love to climb and sit at a variety of heights. Provide window seats.

Boxes

Cats love to explore and curl up asleep in a box.

Toys

Buy or make a variety of toys. Play with your cat.

Feline friend

Indoor cats like company so think about getting another cat.

Litter boxes

At least one litter box should be provided & kept very clean.

Scratching posts

Cats need to scratch. Provide posts or tree trunks.

Snacks

Feed several small meals throughout the day. Provide tasty snacks - try hiding them.

Catnip

Provide catnip, grass & other cat-friendly plants to eat.

Interaction

Lots of play & cuddles will ensure a happy cat.

Other Benefits

Knowing where our cats are at all times will reduce the predation upon our native wildlife. There are other significant benefits to cats and owners including:

- ◆ reduced injuries from road accidents and dog attacks
- ◆ less fights between cats and thus less injuries such as abscesses
- ◆ reduced dangers from tick paralysis or eating snail baits
- ◆ less danger of disease transmission from cats defecating in sandpits etc
- ◆ less complaints from the non-cat owning public about noise etc, and
- ◆ increased interactions with your family pet.

Did You Know...

Cats can be taught to walk on a harness & leash.



What Else Can You Do?

- ◆ Follow the checklist for responsible pet ownership.
- ◆ When choosing a new pet that you intend to keep indoors, select a breed of cat that is less likely to wander and is happy to stay at home.
- ◆ Do not feed stray cats, report them to council.
- ◆ When cats are no longer wanted, do not dump them. Find a home or take to a pound or shelter.
- ◆ Be responsible for your cat at holiday times.
- ◆ If you experience any difficulty keeping your cat on your property you may want to seek advice from Council or talk to your vet.
- ◆ If you notice any other undesirable behaviours such as spraying, scratching or biting, please consult your vet or an animal behaviour specialist.

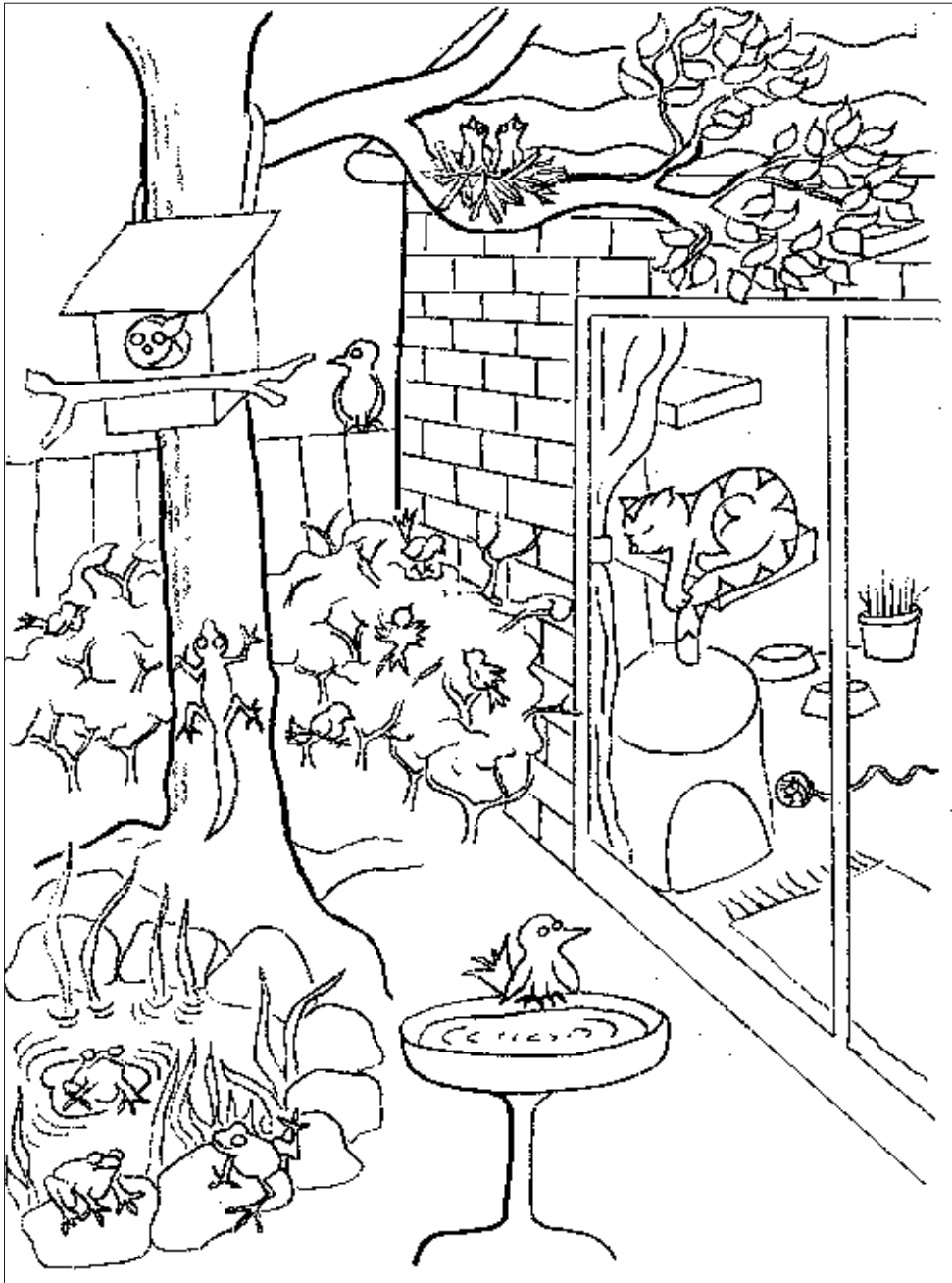


Responsibility Checklist

- ◆ Does your cat have some form of identification- microchip, collar etc.?
- ◆ Is your cat desexed?
- ◆ Is your cat confined to your house and/or garden?
- ◆ Has your cat been vaccinated?
- ◆ Has your cat been wormed?
- ◆ Do you have a photograph of your cat, in case of loss?



You can colour this page.



Wild about Wildlife

If you are concerned about our native plants and animals, there are things that you can do to help.

- ◆ Provide a cat-free area for birds to feed or lizards to sunbathe.
- ◆ If you have to remove a possum from your roof, you must obtain a licence from NPWS and provide a nest box on a tree, away from cats.
- ◆ Report any injured native animals to a wildlife rehabilitation organisation such as WIRES or the Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service.
- ◆ Plant a variety of local native trees and shrubs. Dense prickly ones are especially good.



Lambertia formosa
Mountain Devils

Can you name these native animals ?



Did You Know ...

Cats ...

- ◆ Kill around 30 animals each, every year.
- ◆ Mother cats bring live prey home to their kittens to allow them to practice hunting.
- ◆ Cats usually have 4 or 5 kittens each litter (up to 9). They may breed all year round.

Marsupials ...

- ◆ Are nocturnal (active at night), feeding mainly at dawn and dusk.
- ◆ The spotted quoll is a native carnivore (meat-eater) like the cat.
- ◆ Antechinus are native, shrew-like marsupials, often called marsupial mice.
- ◆ Brushtail possums have only one young at a time while Ringtails have two. They will normally only breed once per year.

ANSWERS: 1. Sugar Glider 2. Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
3. Eastern Spinebill 4. Green Tree Snake 5. Yellow Robin
6. Brushtail Possum 7. Green Tree Frog 8. Leaf Tail Gecko
9. Butterfly 10. Spotted Quoll

Responsibility of Council

Warringah Council's '**Cats in Council Managed Urban Bushland**' initiative and the State Government's **Companion Animals Act 1998** have enabled the community to address issues of predation by domestic cats. If your cat is found in a bushland reserve, council officers will be authorised to capture and impound it. Owners may be fined.

Council will evaluate the effects of this program. They will also undertake to remove all stray and feral cats. Foxes and other pest species will be addressed when an effective means of control is identified.

For further information please contact Warringah Council's Bushland Section.
Ph: 9942 2322

For further information on the Protect Your Cat - Protect Your Wildlife Project please contact Warringah Council's Animal Advisory Officer
Ph: 9942 2715



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Petcare Information & Advisory Service
The Urban Feral Animal Action Group
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Dr Mike Augee, UNSW,
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J.Molloy Environmental Services

