

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the *Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)*

What community consultation surveys were there? Who was asked?

First round consultation September / October 2009

- Advertised in the Whitehorse Leader, Asian Weekly and letters were sent to 2600 residents.

Second round consultation March / April 2010

- Circulated media releases publicising the consultation to local papers and radio.
- On line Survey was advertised in the local papers, community and business group newsletters.
- Survey printed in the Whitehorse Leader.
- Sub- committee heard verbal submissions may 2010.
- Council adopted Orders in June 2010.

How will Council be enforcing the cat curfew?

- Initially, no fines.
- Council will be working with the community – educative approach.
- Council will not be patrolling the streets at night.
- Fines issued as a last resort.

What if my cat is caught?

If micro-chipped:

- If cats discovered wandering – owners contacted and cat returned to owner.

If NOT micro-chipped:

- Owners not identifiable or contactable – cat taken to RSPCA.

What fees will there be to reclaim my cat from the pound at the RSPCA?

Release fees range from \$35 to \$105 – dependant on ability to identify and length of stay at RSPCA.

What will the fines be?

After initial educative process, Infringement is \$119 for a first offence.

Does Council have cat traps available?

Yes. The cost is \$28.50 for two weeks. Deposit is \$50.

How long can they keep it for, do we renew hire periods ?

Two weeks. This can be extended if necessary.

I'm worried that someone might mistake my cat for a stray cat?

If your cat is registered and microchipped, it will be able to be scanned and you will be contacted.

Council is required to scan your cat for a microchip and if one is found, notify you using the contact details provided on the microchip register. If your cat is not identified, Council must hold it for eight days before further action.

Rights of non-cat owners not to have cats on or close to their property:

Cats are not permitted on private property without permission, or to cause a nuisance. The occupier has the right to contain a cat and hand it to Council.

I can't afford to build an enclosure. What cheap alternatives are there?

- Keep your cat inside – provide food water shelter and a litter tray.
- Download the How to Build Cat Proof Fencing and Cat enclosures from www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/cat.care.html

WHY SHOULD I KEEP MY CAT INSIDE AT NIGHT

1. They live longer

- Cats don't go missing
- Cats don't get hit by traffic
- Cats don't accidentally get locked in sheds/garages
- Cats protected from rapidly spreading Feline Aids)
- Cats are safe from pesticides in neighbouring gardens
- Cats safe from Feral Cats

2. Happier neighbours

- No cats roaming around in their gardens
- No cats digging up their plant pots
- No cats catching birds that are welcome visitors in their garden
- No cats roaming causing dogs to bark

3. Environmentally friendly

- Hunting of wildlife isn't possible if your cat is confined
- Total control over what your cat eats

4. Lower cost

- Less chance of injury occurring from traffic or cat fights
- Less chance of your cat picking up disease or infections
= Lower vet bills!

5. Owners get to spend more time with their cat

- Quality time with your cat in your garden
- Totally safe environment for your cat