

Implementation of a Community Cat Program



BENEFITS:

30-50%

reduction in cat intake/impoundments in first year*.

50-80%

reduction in numbers of cats and kittens euthanased in first year*.

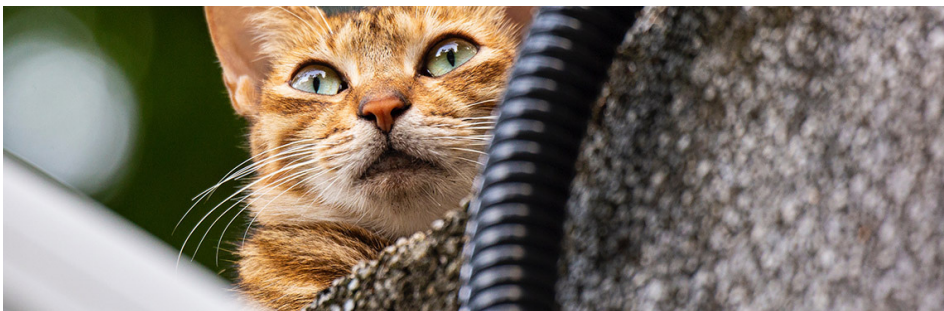


Long-term reduction in cat management costs for councils & animal welfare groups.



Reduced calls regarding found cats & nuisance complaints.

Less burnout of animal management & shelter staff.



Reduced wildlife predation.

Improved environment for residents - less noise disturbance and nuisance behaviours from cats & less disease risk for humans, pets and wildlife.

Residents are more satisfied & supportive of council animal management services*.

Donors & supporters happier with fewer cats being euthanased in shelters & pounds*.

**Based on observed results from high-intensity desexing programs recently conducted in Australia.*

How to Implement a Community Cat Program

11 STEPS:



PHASE 1: Evaluate Data

✓ Step 1

Calculate cat intake or impoundments per 1,000 residents[^] or cat-related calls per 1000 residents for each suburb in your service area.

✓ Step 2

Rank and prioritise suburbs in descending order based on the highest cat intake or impoundments per 1,000 residents or calls per 1,000 residents.

✓ Step 3

Allocate budget for free desexing, microchipping & registration for the next 1-3 years.

✓ Step 4

Negotiate with service providers on the cost per cat for desexing & microchipping and how many desexing surgeries they are willing to perform. (If the local vets have insufficient capacity or are unwilling to provide a discount, check if your local animal shelter is willing to be involved).

✓ Step 5

Identify top-ranked suburbs to target in the first year where your budget will allow you to achieve 30 cats desexed per 1,000 residents (based on observed results from high-intensity desexing programs recently conducted in Australia).

In selecting a target suburb, also consider factors necessary for a successful project, including distance from veterinary clinics, access for staff and volunteers, community involvement, etc.

✓ Step 6

Identify owners, semi-owners, and multiple-cat carers in the target suburb whose cats are not desexed. Particularly focus on locations where impoundments or cat-related calls are coming from using flyer drops, doorknocking, social media and community announcements. Offer free desexing, microchipping and registration.

✓ Step 7

Encourage semi-owners (cat carers/guardians) to take ownership of their cats, including having their name on the microchip.

✓ Step 8

For community members caring for multiple cats, rehome kittens to reduce numbers if possible. Encourage the carer or property owner where the cats are located to have their name on the microchip. (Check how to manage multi-cat situations legally within state government legislation and local by-laws).

✓ Step 9

Offer assistance to catch timid and poorly socialised cats for desexing, assist with scheduling desexing appointments, supply carry-containers and provide transport if needed.

✓ Step 10

In non-target suburbs, provide referrals to services for subsidised desexing & microchipping.

✓ Step 11

Maintain high-intensity desexing for 1 to 3 years until a 50% to 75% reduction in cat intake or cat-related calls occurs, and then maintain desexing at about 5 to 10 cats per 1,000 residents in your yearly budget for the targeted suburbs. Expand the Community Cat Program to the next suburbs down the priority list.

[^]To calculate cat intake per 1,000 residents, divide cat intake over 12 months for the suburb by the human population of the suburb, and multiply the result by 1,000.

PHASE 2: Plan budget for 1-3 years & select target suburbs

PHASE 3: Implement program

PHASE 4: Offer services in non-target suburbs

PHASE 5: Maintain & expand program