Keeping your cat safe and happy

**Cats are wonderful companions and are a popular pet choice. Highly adaptable and flexible, cats fit into domestic life easily.**

If you own a cat, you must comply with a number of legislative and environmental health requirements, and ensure your cat is not a nuisance or menace to your neighbours and the wider community.

**Local laws aim to keep your cat safe**

They help to:

- protect your cat from death, injury and disease
- prevent unplanned pregnancies – reducing unwanted kittens and feral cat numbers
- protect our native wildlife
- prevent nuisance behaviour such as spraying, defecating in neighbouring properties and fighting.

**Lost your cat?**

If your cat goes missing, it is important to act quickly and contact:

- the City Pound on 07 5581 7600
- local vets, RSPCA, Animal Welfare League
- your neighbours.

The City of Gold Coast (City) lost and found service helps minimise the risk to our pets and any adverse impact on the community and the environment, by keeping lost animals off the streets.

If a cat can be identified by a microchip or ID tag, we can contact the owner immediately. If the owner is unable to be contacted, the cat will be taken to the nearest pound.

Identified cats will be held for a period of five working days. Unidentified cats are held for a period of three working days.

If the cat’s owner has not been located at the end of these periods, the cat may be re-homed by the Animal Welfare League.

**Cats don’t have to roam, providing their basic needs are met. They enjoy longer, healthier lives when safely contained to the property.**

**Identify your cat**

It is compulsory under State Legislation for cats aged three months and older to be microchipped.

Identifying your cat ensures it is never lost for long.

Microchipping is a permanent means of identification and helps us reunite lost cats with their owners.

Remember to always update your microchip records with current address and contact details.
Contain your cat safely on your property

Although cats are wonderful companions and fit into domestic life easily they are predators by nature and will go looking for mates, defend territory and hunt wildlife outdoors. Wandering cats are also at risk of injury from cat-fights, dogs, snakes, ticks or being hit by a car.

There are many options available to keep your cat contained to your property:

- Contain your cat inside your home – most cats adjust quickly and are content to stay indoors. Remember to provide your cat with its own dedicated area, toys and climbing equipment.
- Modify existing fencing to make it ‘cat proof’ – give your cat access to the whole yard, and know that it is safely contained to your property.
- Build an enclosure attached to your house – this will allow your cat to come in and out.
- A free standing enclosure – tailor make your enclosure to suit the needs of your cat.

Desex your cat

Desexing your cat will help it live a healthier, longer life; reducing injury, exposure to disease, aggressive behaviour in males, roaming, spraying and noise nuisance.

Early desexing is advised to help reduce unwanted kittens, as cats can reproduce from an early age. Thousands of unwanted kittens are surrendered every year and unfortunately not all are able to find new homes.

For more information

P 1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)
W cityofgoldcoast.com.au/animals