



## Animal Management - Roaming Cats

By law, dogs and cats must be microchipped and registered by the age of 12 weeks and be kept in a properly maintained enclosure.

It is irresponsible as a pet owner to knowingly allow your animal to roam outside of its property. Cats must be confined to the owner's property as there is a high risk that your cat may be trapped, stolen, injured, poisoned, or killed.

Roaming cats are a nuisance and it is the responsibility of their owners to ensure they do not roam. People in the community have a right to live without interference from other people's pets. Unaccompanied animals roaming the streets are at risk. A cat found wandering at large may be impounded, subject to an on-the-spot fine and only released after payment of fees set by Council.

### What can I do if my cat is roaming?

Keeping your cat happy and healthy in its own environment may prevent it from roaming. Set aside time to play, pat and groom the animal in order for it to have plenty of social activity.

As cats like to spend a lot of time sleeping and resting, it is essential they have a quiet area where they feel safe and secure. If your cat does not have an outdoor enclosure, make sure it can access window ledges for sunshine.

If your cat does escape from its enclosure, all measures should be made to stop this from happening a second time. Regularly check the enclosure and make any necessary changes to prevent your animal from roaming. There are many ways to train your cat to stay indoors and to ensure your animal is housed all hours of the day. Please read below for some handy tips on training your cat.

- Proof your yard to prevent your cat from escaping.
- Construct an enclosed run for your cat. Runs are a great way of allowing your cat to still be outside and still contained in your property.

- Confine your cat inside your house.
- Restrict feeding times to when you wish to confine the cat.
- Provide a comfortable sleeping area, kitty litter and water for your cat.
- Supply stimulation for your cat such as a scratching pole or toys.
- Use cat leads in your yard.

Serious problems can occur if cats are allowed to roam outdoors, particularly at night as they are more likely to be hit by a car, injured in fights, catch fatal diseases or become lost. Around 80 per cent of accidents involving cats occur at night.

### What should I do if a cat is roaming on my property?

Roaming cats can be impounded by any member of the public and collected by a Council Local Law Enforcement Officers. If you find a roaming cat, confine the cat in a cage or room and phone Council to arrange pickup.

Council hires cat traps to residents experiencing difficulties with domestic and feral cats straying onto their property and causing a nuisance. Local Law Enforcement Officers collect cats that are restrained in a Council cat traps from Monday to Friday.

### What happens if my cat is caught roaming?

If your cat is caught roaming and is impounded, Council will take all reasonable steps to try and contact you. If you notice your cat is missing, refer to the Council website at [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au) and follow the appropriate links to the Rescued Animal page. All impounded animals are uploaded onto Council's website to be viewed by the public.

You may also like to upload your details and a picture of your animal onto the Lost and Found Register. If you think your cat is impounded phone Council to arrange release.

Release fees apply to all impounded animals and will need to be paid before the animal is released to its owner. If the animal is unregistered it will have to be registered prior to being collected. The registration fee is included in the release fee. If an animal is not claimed from the pound, Council will endeavour to re-house it, or if it is not suitable for re-housing, it may be euthanised.

If minimal steps are not taken to stop the animal from roaming and the alleged roaming nuisance is proven to be a breach of Council's Local Law, an Officer will undertake an inspection of your enclosure and you may be subject to an on-the-spot fine.

#### How can you contact us?



(07) 4970 0700

STD CALLS: 1300 733 343

For those residents who currently incur STD call rates when contacting their local customer service centre



(07) 4975 8500



[info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au)



[www.gladstone.qld.gov.au](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au)

