



CAT MANAGEMENT POLICY

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Amendment/Administrative History

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1. OBJECTIVE

To encourage responsible cat ownership and appropriate management of cats in accord with requirements of the Cat Management Act 2009.

2. TYPE OF POLICY

As per Section 8 of Policy GTC-12, this policy (GTC-46) is categorized as a Operational Policy.

This categorization is consistent with the definitions as stated in Policy GTC-12 which are as follows:

Council - Policies pertaining to the Governance of the Council and the activities of its elected members, including the establishment of Committees, and the government of the municipality including resident and ratepayer compliance policies and by-laws.

Operational - Policies pertaining to the operational, administrative, and internal matters of the Council, including internal governance, internal committees, and operational matters of service delivery.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to cat management activities that occur within the George Town Local Government Area (the LGA).

4. Definitions

The definition of terms used are:

4.1 Authorised person under the Cat Management Act 2009, means -

- (a) a police officer; or
- (b) an officer within the meaning of the Animal Welfare Act 1993; or
- (c) an authorised person within the meaning of the Dog Control Act 2000;
- (d) a person authorised under section 5 to perform the functions and exercise the powers of an authorised person; or
- (e) any other prescribed person or prescribed class of persons.

4.2 Cat Management action means any one or more of the following actions -

- (a) humanely destroying a cat;
- (b) trapping a cat;
- (c) seizing a cat;
- (d) detaining a cat;
- (e) returning a cat once the cat has been desexed.

4.3 Cat management facility under the Cat Management Act 2009, means -

- a Council facility that has facilities for handling and holding cats; or
- a prescribed facility; or
- a facility operated by a person, or organisation, as prescribed.

4.4 Domestic Cat - means a cat that a person may, on reasonable grounds, believe to be currently owned.

4.5 Stray Cat - means a cat that is not a domestic cat but lives in close proximity to humans and may receive from them some food, water or shelter and be accustomed to their presence.

4.6 Feral Cat under the Cat Management Act 2009 - means a cat that lives largely or entirely removed from humans in the wild and does not depend for its survival on humans intentionally providing food, water or shelter.

4.7 Nuisance under the Local Government Act 1993, includes anything that -

- (a) causes, or is likely to cause, danger or harm to the health, safety or welfare of the public; or
- (b) causes, or is likely to cause, a risk to public health; or
- (c) gives rise to unreasonable or excessive levels of noise or pollution; or
- (d) is, or is likely to be, a fire risk; or
- (e) constitutes an unsightly article or rubbish.

4.8 Primary Production Land has the same meaning as prescribed in the Land Tax Act 2000.

4.9 Production Premises under the Cat Management Act 2009, means premises used -

- (a) in relation to -
 - (i) agriculture; or
 - (ii) horticulture; or
 - (iii) viticulture; or
 - (iv) aquaculture; or
- (b) for the preparation or storage, for commercial purposes, of food for humans or animals; or
- (c) as an abattoir -

or for any associated purposes.

4.10 Prohibited Area under the Cat Management Act 2009, means -

- (a) any area of land that is managed by a public authority, or Agency within the meaning of the State Service Act 2000, and is reserved land; or
- (b) any area of private land that is reserved land; or
- (c) any area of land declared to be prohibited area under section 19; or
- (d) any other area of land that is prescribed or is of a prescribed class; or

(e) any part of an area of land referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d).

4.11 Reserved Land under the Cat Management Act 2009, means -

- (a) a public reserve within the meaning of the Crown Lands Act 1976; or
- (b) private timber reserve within the meaning of the Forest Practices Act 1985; or
- (c) permanent timber production zone land within the meaning of the Forest Management Act 2013; or
- (d) reserved land within the meaning of the Nature Conservation Act 2002; or
- (e) land that is subject to a conservation covenant within the meaning of Part 5 of the Nature Conservation Act 2002; or
- (f) prescribed or is of a prescribed class.

4.12 Trap under the Cat Management Act 2009, means a method of trapping an animal that complies with the Animal Welfare Act 1993.

5. LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction One - Community Pride

All communities take pride in their place

- Maintaining public spaces so they are clean, tidy and appealing.

Safe and secure communities

- Focusing on prevention.

Future Direction Two - Prosperity for All in All Aspects of Life

Protected local natural landscapes and values

- Caring for our environment.
- Achievement of the George Town Coastal Care Management Plan objectives.
- Supporting Coastal Care, George Town Coastal Care Management Group, Tamar NRM, NRM North, Land Care, Friends of the Penguin Colony and other environmental interests.

Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance

Difficult issues are managed in an open manner without conflict

- Communicating well.

6. RELATED LEGISLATION

This policy relates to Council's obligations under the *Cat Management Act 2009 (Tas)*.

7. RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Council considers risks that have the potential to impact its financial sustainability, the community, and the environment throughout its day to day operations.

Undertaking appropriate actions to manage domestic, stray, and feral cats that meet the requirements of the act and deliver practical cat management outcomes for our Community is a key objective of this policy.

8. POLICY

8.1 CAT MANAGEMENT POLICY INTENT

The management of cats and cat populations is a shared responsibility that applies throughout the George Town LGA. When key stakeholders and members of the community work together, cat ownership and companionship can be enjoyed by all, and cat populations can be sustainably managed.

Council's role is to support actions and initiatives contained in the Cat Management Act 2009 (Tas) as its resources allow. Importantly, Council can lead initiatives that undertake a partnership approach with the Tasmanian Government, regional organisations, our residents and organisations with an interest in caring for cats and supporting cat ownership.

8.2 POLICY COMMITMENT

Council will actively pursue initiatives that are practical and based on evidence and data relating cat ownership and management trends within our LGA.

Council will achieve the Objective of this policy by working to:

- Actively promote responsible cat ownership within the community and improve the health and wellbeing of owned cats.
- Reduce the number of stray and feral cats in the George Town area, particular focus on known cat colony situations.
- Protect native wildlife in George Town area with focus to the penguin colony and other environmental interests.
- Reduce unwanted cat behaviours (roaming, fighting, etc) nuisance for the wider community.
- Provide support to George Town residents who choose to have cats in their lives.

8.3 PRACTICAL POLICY APPLICATION

As human and financial resources allow, George Town Council will instigate a number of actions that meet the Objective of this Policy. These include but are not limited to:

- Working with Tassie Cat to provide information and guidance to the community on responsible cat ownership
- Identifying locations where stray cat populations are increasing and implementing the necessary actions to prevent escalation of populations
- Co-ordinating an ongoing de-sexing pilot program to prevent the unwanted breeding of domestic cats
- Co-ordinating an ongoing micro-chipping pilot program to log cat ownership data
- In partnership with Tassie Cat and other cat rehoming providers, undertake a feral cat trapping program to prevent breeding and reduce numbers to protect native wildlife.

8.4. STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Key partners/stakeholders	Responsibilities & Opportunities
Government - George Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councils (local government) are the primary regulator of domestic cats, including local laws and management of nuisance issues. George Town Community Compliance Officers will promote responsible cat ownership in and around George Town municipality by conducting community surveys and providing education initiatives by sourcing their information from Tassie Cat and the guidelines set under the Cat Management Act 2009 (Tas).

Key partners/stakeholders	Responsibilities & Opportunities
Traditional Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Owners may want to be involved in feral cat management and monitoring the outcomes as part of their role in managing Country.
George Town Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake cat care through activities like caring and assuming ownership of stray cats, reporting nuisance behaviour, cat trapping, surrenders, foster care, and adoptions.
Cat Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required to care for, desex and microchip their cat, and ensure it does not trespass on private property and cause nuisance within the community.
Animal Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide care, veterinary, adoption, education, and rehoming services. Humanely euthanise cats that are unsuitable for rehoming. Provide desexing surgeries at reduced rates for pet owners who meet certain criteria, such as low-income households or residents of specific areas with high cat overpopulation.
Department of natural Resources and Environment Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and develop new tools for management of feral cats, that are humane, efficient, and effective. Undertake research to address key knowledge gaps and uncertainties about feral cats and their management. Undertake research on cat ownership behaviour and attitudes.
Tassie Cat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source cameras to set in key locations indicated by the survey results, and to identify stray/feral cat populations in high environmental value areas such as the Low Head Penguin colony.

9. IMPLEMENTATION & REVIEW OF POLICY

Implementation of this Policy rests with the General Manager. This Policy will be reviewed in 2027 or in accordance with legislative requirements.



Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER

DATED 28 16 124