

# Keep your cat indoors and protect our wildlife

## In the Blue Mountains



### Pets provide their owners with companionship, fun and a sense of responsibility.

Cats kept in a safe house live a longer, healthier life.

Cats who roam are at risk of:

- Catching diseases from other cats
- Attack from parasites (such as worms and ticks)
- Injury from cars, human cruelty, poison baits and attacks from other animals
- Unwanted pregnancies

### Help protect our native wildlife

- The Blue Mountains is home to many small animals, some are rare.
- Cats are instinctive hunters and don't have to be hungry to hunt.
- They locate wildlife easily.
- They can find a sleeping lizard with their strong sense of smell.
- They are skilled climbers, adept at raiding bird nests and catching possums in trees.
- **Each roaming cat is estimated to kill up to 30 native animals per year (on average).**

### You can:

- Keep your cat indoors day and night or as a minimum from dusk to dawn:
  - choose a breed of cat suited to indoor living — contact the RSPCA for help
  - train your kitten or cat to live indoors
  - train your cat to walk on a leash
- Place a suitable collar, tag and bell\* on your cat
- Desex your cat to avoid unwanted kittens
- Vaccinate your cat against diseases, treat your cat for worms and provide veterinary care

### Remember!

- \* Bells on collars don't always work.
- Cats with bells can learn to stalk prey silently
- Native animals don't associate the sound of bells with danger

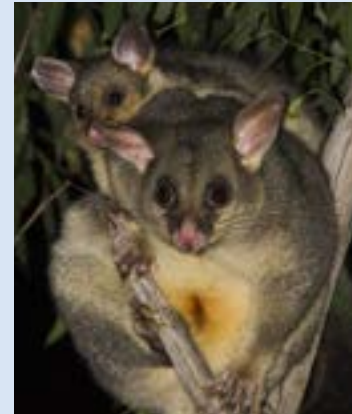


Photo Credit: Akos Lumnitzner



Photo credit: AusKatz Cat Enclosures

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### More Ideas:

- Build a cat enclosure in your garden; it could be connected to your house—great resources are available on-line on how to build cat enclosures from the RSPCA and state environmental agencies
- Never dump unwanted cats and kittens take them to the RSPCA
- Never feed stray cats. They may spread disease to your cats and hunt native wildlife in your garden. Hire or buy a trap and take them to the RSPCA
- Remove cat doors to prevent your cat straying outdoors and other cats from entering your house
- When going away on holiday leave your cat in a safe home or cattery.

### Tips for keeping a happy indoor cat

- Provide good quality food, clean water and clean kitty litter
- Provide your cat with a scratching post to climb, a box to sit in next to the window inside your home, and a cat enclosure for its outside adventures
- Provide toys for an interesting indoor environment
- Provide a bunch or pot of fresh grass for your cat to chew. This helps get rid of fur balls and keeps them healthy.
- Daily play and cuddles will also ensure a happy indoor cat!

### Why should I register my cat?

- It's the law!
- If your cat is lost, this will help enable your cat to be returned.
- If you fail to register your cat when required to do so you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice of \$330

### One-off lifetime pet registration fee

- \$50 for a desexed cat (2020-21)
- \$26 for a cat owned by an eligible pensioner (2020-21)

**From 1 July 2020** owners of cats not desexed by four months of age will be required to pay an \$80 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration fee.

When you change address please remember to update your details online at the **NSW Pet Register** or alternatively notify Blue Mountains City Council of your new address so your cat's registration details can be updated.

To report nuisance cat issues or for registration information:  
Phone 4780 5000 or Email: [council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

Download other Environmental Fact Sheets at [bmcc.nsw.gov.au](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au)



Photo credit: Wild Whiskers



## Registration Responsibilities

You can register your cat with Blue Mountains City Council. It is a lifetime registration and will be placed on the NSW Companion Animals Register. The Companion Animals Act 1998 requires that:

- All cats born after 1 July 1999 must be microchipped and registered for life
- All new kittens must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age and registered by 6 months of age.