

Fact Sheet: Cat Curfew



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Yarra Ranges Council has a 24-hour cat curfew. This means that residents must keep their cats within their property boundary at all times. They are free to be in your front or back yard, or in a cat enclosure.

Our Safer Communities Team works with residents to deal with complaints about cats on a case-by-case basis. If you're having issues with a local cat, we encourage you to speak with its owner first, before contacting our Safer Communities Team on 1300 368 333 to organise a humane cat trap.

What problems can cats cause if they wander?

Council receives many complaints about cats wandering onto neighbouring properties, parks and reserves. Cats can cause a nuisance with noise, but can also exhibit behaviours that would normally occur in the wild, such as killing wildlife, defecating, fighting with other pets and crying loudly. Dogs are also required to be kept in an owner's property at all times (with the exception of being on-leash in public places, or off-leash in designated areas).

Can my cat still go outside?

Yes, but it has to remain on your property. Containing cats to a property can be difficult, so you may need to consider a cat enclosure or other methods to stop it from wandering. Speaking to your local vet or pet store can be a good first step.

Do I still have to pay my cat's pet registration?

Yes. Pet registration and the associated fees are a State Government requirement. Registration makes it much easier for us to help reunite owners and pets if they get lost or wander away, as well as being an essential part of responsible pet ownership.

I want to trap a wandering cat that's causing a nuisance – can I use my own trap or do I need a Council one?

Before considering trapping a cat, we recommend you talk to the cat's owner to discuss the issue wherever possible. This can be an easy way to solve the problem. If this isn't possible or doesn't resolve the issue, you may trap a cat that wanders on to your property. However, any trap used must be a humane trap with a step-plate trigger. All other traps, including hook-action mechanisms are prohibited by law and must not be used.

Once a cat is trapped, you may return it to its owner, contact our Safer Communities Team on 1300 368 333 to arrange collection or take the cat to Animal Aid in Coldstream.

What happens if my cat is trapped?

Our Safer Communities Team will try to reunite cats with their owners by checking registration and microchip details. If we're unable to find the owner, we take cats to Animal Aid in Coldstream.

Do I receive a warning, or are cats impounded straight away?

If we can't identify a cat's owner or get in touch with you, the cat will be taken to Animal Aid by our teams.

Are there any fees or fines if my cat is impounded?

If we can't reunite animals with their owners and they are taken to Animal Aid, there will be fees to have them released. These vary depending on whether the cat is registered, microchipped or desexed. These costs are set by Animal Aid and not collected by Council.



What happens if someone makes a complaint about my cat?

If we can identify a cat's owner after a complaint, our Safer Communities Team will investigate and inform you. If not, the cat may be trapped and taken to Animal Aid in Coldstream.

What can I do if a cat wanders onto my property or causes a nuisance?

We always recommend talking to the owner of the cat first to try and resolve the issue. If the issue can't be resolved and you wish to make a formal complaint, please contact our Safer Communities Team on 1300 368 333 or email mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au