

Are you fur real? WA Cat Act to come in

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From November WA's criminal kitties will have nowhere to hide – that's when the legislative assembly's Cat Act 2011 comes into force.

Under the act, cats deemed to have committed an "offence", such as threatening wildlife or being a nuisance by damaging property, can be seized and detained by rangers.

The Cat Act 2011 passed through the legislative assembly last November and requires cats to be sterilised, microchipped and registered. It comes into effect on November 1.

The state government has announced \$3.24 million in sterilisation subsidies for pensioners and other health-care card-holders, and the funding will also go towards helping local governments implement the act, paying for cat pound facilities, microchip readers, cat traps and ranger training.

The act will also give local governments power to deal with irresponsible owners, such as cat hoarders.

Four cat pounds would be established in Perth and there will two around Mandurah and Bunbury.

The act has been amended so cat owners now have seven days – not three – to pick up their impounded felines before they get put down.