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Claws out for cat laws

27/Sep/2011

By Michael Gill, Stirling Times

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POLICING the State Government's proposed cat laws would be a drain on resource levels, according to the City of Stirling.

The Cat Bill 2011 aims to reduce stray cat numbers, encourage responsible cat ownership and reduce the number of cats euthanised in the State each year.

The Bill proposes all cats six months and older be micro-chipped, sterilised and registered with the relevant local government, and the Bill provides for councils to administer and enforce the laws.

Passed through the Legislative Assembly last week, the Bill still needs to pass the Upper House. It will be presented to the Legislative Council this week.

The City of Stirling has its own established cat ownership guidelines that require owners to obtain a permit for more than one cat in protected fauna buffer zones and more than three cats outside buffer zones.

Stirling community safety manager Laurie Crouch said the City supported a statewide approach to cat legislation, but it was unknown whether a touted \$10 cat registration fee would cover costs needed to enforce the proposed laws.

"It would be particularly draining on current resource levels to police this matter," Mr Crouch said.

"It is likely that the city will need additional facilities and resources to help manage the proposed legislation – this is yet to be costed but could be hefty."

Local Government Minister John Castrilli said the legislation would reduce the impact of unwanted cats on the community, where they caused nuisance and damaged property.

"Local governments will be able to deal with irresponsible owners, including cat hoarders and cats that are not owned," Mr Castrilli said.

Opposition Local Government spokesman Paul Papalia said owners having to both microchip their cats and register them with local government under the law was unnecessary.

"Micro-chipping can do the same job as registering cats," Mr Papalia said.

"The requirement for cat owners to register with councils is obviously little more than a revenue-raising scheme."

Phase one of the legislation would be introduced late next year, whereas microchipping, sterilisation and registration requirements would take effect in November 2013.



What everyone else is thinking



Stanley

28/09/2011

Little bells on roaming cats do not stop them digging and dropping their stinking poop in other peoples gardens and vegie patches.

Pati

27/09/2011

Eventually this law will take care of pet overpopulation and abandonment. A pet owner should be fined for a microchipped cat picked up wandering. These fines would be used to spay and neuter unchipped strays who can then be put up for adoption if healthy. It will not happen overnite, but in not too much time it will have a profound effect.



enduro

27/09/2011

Shelley: you started off OK, however your closing comments "cat haters" do not help set out your argument for a "comonsense, and a meaningful input into actually fixing the problem".

Your rebuttal also lacks vision. Surely you can't expect this Legislation to be a short term fix, it will take 10 years or so to help curb the problem.

I fully support cat sterilization.

Sasha

27/09/2011

All red tape nonsense aside cat laws should be the same as dogs and the roaming puss should be kept inside from dusk til dawn that is responsible pet ownership!!

By the way we don't all hate cats as you put it.



Shelly

27/09/2011

Cstrilli doesnt have a clue about cats and the issues facing the failure of people to sterilise cats. The Govt can legislate all it wants- doesnt mean people will suddenly run to the vet asking that their cat be sterilised. What of all the cats dumped in industrial sites? Who will be tending those animals?

What s needed is comonsense, and a meaningful input into actually fixing the problem. The ONLY group who knew how to fix it is Cat Sterilisation Soc because they are the only group who for 20 years has pushed sterilisation as the ONLY workable solution to reduce cat numbers.

Catching and killing cats doesnt stop the breeding, but it does provide for cat hating neighbours to complain and have a neighbourhood cat killed.

Legislation serves to support cat haters not help cats.

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