

## Knee deep in stray cats? Blame global warming, RSPCA says

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Animal attendant Kathryn Gustavsen with stray cats.  
N12WH100

GLOBAL warming has been blamed for a lot of things, but this one must go down as the oddest yet.

The RSPCA claims climate change is producing a boom in the number of feral felines prowling streets in Melbourne's leafy east.

The society, based in Burwood East, said warmer seasons encouraged breeding and urged moggy lovers to lock up their cats and stop feeding scraps to strays.

RSPCA animal welfare spokesman Andrew Foran said Melbourne's stray cat population had eclipsed 500,000 and was on the rise.

"Warmer weather is improving breeding conditions, extending breeding seasons and reducing the natural attrition rate, resulting in thousands more kittens being born into lives of disease, neglect and starvation," he said.

"Unowned cats are a significant source of nuisance in the community. They prey on wildlife, fight with owned cats and spread disease."

To combat the issue the RSPCA has called on residents to take on full ownership of stray cats they may be feeding.

Until October 12 the RSPCA will offer semi-owners the special rate of \$60 to desex, vaccinate and microchip strays they may be feeding.

To book, phone RSPCA Burwood East on 9224 2222.

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