



CITY OF MITCHAM

CATS BY-LAW 2015

By-law No. 6 of 2015

A By-law to limit the number of cats kept on premises and for the management and control of cats in the Council area.

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PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Title

This By-law may be cited as the *Cats By-law 2015* and is By-law No. 6 of the City of Mitcham.

2. Authorising law

This By-law is made under section 90(5) of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, section 246 of the Act and sections 667(1), 4.1 and 9.XVI of the *Local Government Act 1934*.

3. Purpose

The objects of this By-law are to control and manage cats in the Council area:

- 3.1. to promote responsible cat ownership;
- 3.2. to reduce the incidence of public and environmental nuisance caused by cats;
- 3.3. to protect the comfort and safety of members of the public; and
- 3.4. for the good rule and government of the Council area.

4. Commencement, revocation and expiry

4.1. The following By-laws previously made by the Council are revoked from the day on which this By-law comes into operation¹:

4.1.1 By-law No. 6 – Cats.²

4.2. This By-law will expire on 1 January 2023.³

Note-

1. Generally a By-law comes into operation 4 months after the day on which it is gazetted: section 249(5) of the Act.
2. Section 253 of the Act provides that the revocation of a By-law by another By-law that contains substantially the same provisions, does not affect certain resolutions such as those applying a By-law to a part or parts of the Council area.
3. Pursuant to section 251 of the Act, a By-law will expire on 1 January following the seventh anniversary of the gazettal of the By-law.

5. Application

5.1. This By-law operates subject to the Council's *Permits and Penalties By-law 2015*.

6. Interpretation

In this By-law, unless the contrary intention appears;

- 6.1. **Act** means the *Local Government Act 1999*;
- 6.2. **cat** means an animal of the species *felis catus* which is three months of age or has lost its juvenile canine teeth;

- 6.3. **Council** means City of Mitcham;
- 6.4. **keep** includes the provision of food or shelter;
- 6.5. **nuisance** means:
- 6.5.1 unreasonably interfering with the peace, comfort or convenience of a person;
 - 6.5.2 injurious to a person's real or personal property; or
 - 6.5.3 obnoxious, offensive or hazardous to health;
- 6.6. **premises** includes land whether used or occupied for domestic or non-domestic purposes.

Note-

Section 14 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1915* provides that an expression used in this By-law has, unless the contrary intention appears, the same meaning as in the Acts under which the By-law is made.

PART 2 – REGISTRATION & IDENTIFICATION OF CATS

7. Registration of cats

- 7.1. A person must not keep a cat in the Council's area for more than 14 days unless the cat is registered in accordance with this By-law.
- 7.2. An application for registration of a cat must:
- 7.2.1 be made to the Council in the manner and form prescribed (if any) and accompanied by the fee (if any) prescribed by the Council by resolution; and
 - 7.2.2 nominate a person of or over 16 years of age who consents to the cat being registered in his or her name; and
 - 7.2.3 identify with reference to an address the premises at which the cat is kept.
- 7.3. Clause 7.1 does not apply to a person operating a business involving the keeping of cats provided that the business is operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents.
- 7.4. Registration under this By-law remains in force until June 30 next after registration has been granted and may be renewed from time to time for further periods of 12 months.

8. Identification of cats

- 8.1. Subject to clause 8.2, a person must not, without Council's permission, keep a cat on any premises unless the cat is an identified cat by means of having a microchip implanted in its body containing information that may be used to obtain the current address or telephone number of the owner or other person entitled to possession of the cat.

- 8.2. Clause 8.1 does not apply to premises comprising a business involving the keeping of cats provided that the business is operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents.

PART 3 –LIMITS ON CAT NUMBERS

9. Limits on cat numbers

- 9.1. Subject to clause 9.2, a person must not, without the Council's permission, keep more than two cats on any premises:
- 9.2. Clause 9.1 does not apply to premises comprising a business involving the keeping of cats provided that the business is operating in accordance with all required approvals and consents.

10. Cats not to be a nuisance

- 10.1. An owner or occupier of premises is guilty of an offence if a cat or cats kept or allowed to remain on the premises causes a nuisance by reason of:
- 10.1.1 noise or odour created by the cat or cats; or
- 10.1.2 wandering from the land; or
- 10.1.3 the aggressive nature of the cat or cats.

PART 4 – ENFORCEMENT

11. Orders

- 11.1. If a person engages in conduct that is a contravention of this By-law, an authorised person may order that person:
- 11.1.1 if the conduct is still continuing – to stop the conduct; and
- 11.1.2 whether or not the conduct is still continuing – to take specified action to remedy the contravention.
- 11.2. A person must comply with an order under this clause.
- 11.3. If a person does not comply with an order, the authorised person may take action reasonably required to have the order carried out, and the Council may recover its costs of any action so taken from the person to whom the order was directed.
- 11.4. However, an authorised person may not use force against a person under this section.

Note-

For example, an authorised person may order a person to:

- cease keeping more than the permitted number of cats on that person's premises; or
- take the necessary steps to mitigate a nuisance caused by cats.

This By-law was duly made and passed at a meeting of the City of Mitcham held on the 11 August 2015 by an absolute majority of the members for the time being constituting the Council, there being at least two thirds of the members present.


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MATTHEW PEARS
Chief Executive Officer