

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Cat and Dog Review](#)
Subject: RE: Feedback on Cat & Dog Laws & Document titled ""Pause for paws- Feedback on dog and cat laws in WA"
Date: Monday, 5 August 2019 12:14:03 PM

RE: Feedback on Cat & Dog Laws & Document titled ""Pause for paws- Feedback on dog and cat laws in WA"

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.
My response is mainly concerns the keeping of cats.
As a brief background, I am based in Rockingham, I have owned a dog and three cats in the past and will likely own another cat in the future.

Cats are a great pet however I believe tighter controls are needed.
I have had significant issues, with mainly neighbor's cats entering my property, urine making on doors, kids toys, vehicles & causing other property damage ie. destroying outdoor furniture, scratching car paint etc.
However my greatest concern is the destruction cats cause to wildlife in both the wild and in urban areas (Including backyards, remnant bush-land and parks)

Western Australia is a significant bio diversity hotspot and cats (both feral & pet) will drive many mammals, birds & reptiles to extinction.
I understand a night "cat curfew" is likely on the cards- this would help although I don't believe this will be sufficient long term and would also be very difficult to implement due to peoples lifestyles.

People who start work early and return home late would still have cats roaming in the dark especially during winter hours.
(I have electronically surveyed the cats passing through our property and many cause issues in these early morning and early evening periods – which is also when native wildlife is more active & vulnerable. Additionally cats still hunt, roam & breed during the day light hours.

I strongly believe cats should be kept indoors & within purpose build "cats runs" (enclosures) at all times. I have a number of friends who currently do this very successfully. This method is also best for the health & welfare of the cats who are otherwise subject to disease, people who may cause them harm & vehicle impact – we have had around 6 cats killed by cars in our street – one such event was unfortunately witnessed by children walking to school- it wasn't a quick clean death. The cats crossing roads also poses an additional risk to motorists.

I understand establishing indoor cats or cat enclosures may cause some public inconvenience (especially for owners who don't fully appreciate the issues that roaming cats cause the environment.)

A suggestion may be a grace period to allow owners to adapt to such changes & enclosures. As well as further public education on the issues cats cause & the many misconceptions around cats roaming ie "it's natural for them to kill birds".

With our unique & sensitive environment created over millions of years of isolation, Western Australia should really be leading the world in demonstrating the appropriate control of pet cats.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide feedback.

[I give permission for this feedback to be used , recorded etc or responded too if needed]

Kind Regards

