



**TassieCat**

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# **Cat Management Legislation in Tasmania**



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The *Cat Management Act 2009* (the Act) is the principal legislation for managing domestic and stray cats in Tasmania. Key objectives of the Act are to encourage responsible cat ownership to improve the welfare of cats, provide for the effective management of domestic and stray cats, and reduce the impact of cats on Tasmania's unique environment.

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## What does this mean for cat owners?

### **Do I have to desex and microchip my cat?**

From 1 March 2022, all cats over the age of four months must be microchipped and desexed.

Exemptions to microchipping will apply where a vet certifies that microchipping may adversely affect the health and welfare of the cat.

Exemptions to desexing will apply where a vet certifies that desexing may adversely affect the health and welfare of the cat; or to a cat owned for the purpose of breeding by a registered breeder; or the holder of a cat breeding permit in relation to the cat.

**For more info visit:**  
**[www.tassiecat.com](http://www.tassiecat.com)**

## **Is there a limit on the number of cats I may keep on my property?**

From 1 March 2022, a person must not keep more than four cats, over the age of four months, on their property without a permit.

This maximum number does not apply if you: hold a permit to keep more than four cats; are a registered cat breeder; hold a conditional permit to breed a cat; are fostering cats for a cat management facility; have agreed to take care of another person's cat for less than six months; or the cat is being kept at a cat boarding facility or veterinary establishment.

Visit the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) website for more information on how to apply for a multiple cat permit.

For the welfare of your cat(s), the Australian Veterinary Association recommends no more than two cats in a household, and those cats are most likely to get along with one another if they are siblings from the same litter. Many cats don't get along with other cats and it can be very stressful for them to be part of a multi-cat household.

## **What if I want to breed from my cat?**

Only registered breeders are permitted to breed cats in Tasmania. From 1 March 2022, anyone wishing to breed a cat in Tasmania will be required to be a member of a recognised cat organisation or will have the option of applying for a conditional permit.

Visit the DPIPWE website for more information on how you will be able to apply for a conditional permit.

Cats that are not being kept for breeding must be desexed by four months of age.

**With so many unwanted cats and kittens surrendered each year, why not consider adopting from a cat management facility instead?**

## What should I do if I can no longer care for my cat?

Under the Act it is an offence to abandon a cat. If you are unable to care for your cat, it can be sold or given away if it is at least eight weeks old, microchipped and desexed, vaccinated, wormed and has been checked by a vet. Alternatively, it should be taken to a cat management facility for rehoming. Contact the facility first to discuss their process for surrendering your cat. You may also like to seek advice from your vet if you are dealing with challenging cat behavioural issues.

There are three registered cat management facilities in Tasmania: Ten Lives Cat Centre, RSPCA Tasmania and Just Cats Tasmania.

## What happens if I want to sell or give away my cat?

Any cat that is to be sold or given away must be at least eight weeks old, desexed and microchipped, wormed and vaccinated prior to sale. In addition, written evidence of the results of a general health check must be provided by a veterinary surgeon.

Exemptions to microchipping will apply where a vet certifies that microchipping may adversely affect the health and welfare of the cat. Exemptions to desexing will apply where a vet certifies desexing may adversely affect the health and welfare of the cat; or if the buyer is a registered breeder; or the holder of a cat breeding permit in relation to the cat.

From 1 March 2022, the 'care agreements' which existed under previous provisions of the Act are no longer applicable.



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Under the *Cat Management Act 2009* to sell a cat includes trade, give away, take consideration for, transfer ownership of and offer for sale.**



## **What happens if my cat ends up at a cat management facility?**

Cats in the care of a cat management facility will be scanned for a microchip. If the cat is microchipped, the operator of the facility will try to contact the owner of the cat via the details provided on the online microchip registry.

Cat management facilities are required to hold microchipped cats for five days and non-microchipped cats for three days, to provide the opportunity for cats and their owners to be re-united. After this time, the facility may rehome the cat.

Before you can reclaim your cat, the facility must make sure the cat is microchipped and desexed. Exemptions to microchipping will apply where a vet certifies that microchipping may adversely affect the health and welfare of the cat. Exemptions to desexing will apply to a cat where a vet certifies that desexing may adversely affect the health and welfare of the cat; or to a cat owned for the purpose of breeding by a registered breeder; or to the holder of a cat breeding permit in relation to the cat; or where arrangements have been made with a veterinary surgeon to desex the cat.

The facility may charge you for the costs associated with your cat being microchipped and desexed as well as any other costs that have been incurred in housing and treating the cat.

## **Am I bound by law to contain my cat to my property?**

There is no requirement to keep your cat contained to your property, however it is strongly encouraged. Your home is the safest place for your cat. By not letting your cat roam freely you are keeping them safe from car accidents, dog attacks and injuries from cat fights, as well as keeping native wildlife safe and avoiding potential conflicts with your neighbours.

Individual councils can make by-laws that address cat containment and declare cat prohibited areas. Check with your council to see if they have any local laws that require you to keep your cat contained to your property or prohibit your cat from entering certain areas.

## Can my cat be trapped if it wanders from my property?

Yes, your cat may be trapped if it wanders from your property. Your home is the safest place for your cat, and it is strongly encouraged to keep your cat safe and contained on your property.

### What are the rules for the trapping of cats in Tasmania?

A person is permitted to trap a cat on their private property, as long as any cat that is trapped is either returned to its owner; or taken to a cat management facility; or taken to a nominee of a facility, within 24 hours of being trapped.

Traps must be checked at least once every 24-hour period after the trap is first set.

Before setting a trap, a person should first contact a cat management facility to understand the facility's processes for accepting a cat, operating hours, and any associated fees. **You should not take a cat to a cat management facility without contacting the facility first.**

**Under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*, a person who sets a trap is responsible for the care and welfare of any animal that is caught in the trap and has a duty to take all reasonable measures to protect the welfare of the animal.**

Visit [www.tassiecat.com](http://www.tassiecat.com) and download our '*Guidelines for trapping a cat in urban and peri-urban areas*' if you are considering trapping a cat.

The Act also allows for cats to be trapped in prohibited areas, such as National Parks and reserves, on private land that is more than 1 km from a place of residence, on 'primary production land', such as farming properties, or on a 'production premises', such as aquaculture and abattoir operations. Any cat trapped in these locations can either be returned to its owner; taken to a cat management facility; or humanely destroyed.

**For more information on the  
*Cat Management Act 2009* visit:**

**<https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/cat-management-in-tasmania>**

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**For more info on keeping your cat  
happy and healthy at home visit:  
[www.tassiecat.com](http://www.tassiecat.com)**