

KEEP YOUR CAT SAFE & SOUND INDOORS & PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE

in the Blue Mountains

Pets provide their owners with companionship, fun and a sense of responsibility.

Cats kept in a safe house live a longer, healthier life.

Cats who roam are at risk of:

- Disease from other cats
- Attack from parasites (such as worms and ticks)
- Injury from cars, human cruelty, poison baits and attacks from other animals
- Unwanted pregnancies

Photo Credit: Akos Lumnitzer



Help protect our native wildlife

The Blue Mountains is home to many small animals, some are rare.

Cats are instinctive hunters and don't have to be hungry to hunt.

They locate wildlife easily.

They can find a sleeping lizard with their strong sense of smell.

They are skilled climbers, adept at raiding bird nests and catching possums in trees.



Each roaming cat can kill up to 30 native animals per year, on average.

Remember!

*** Bells on collars don't always work.**

- Cats with bells can learn to stalk prey silently
- **Native animals don't associate the sound of bells with danger**

You can:

- Keep your cat indoors day and night:
 - choose a breed of cat suited to indoor living—contact the RSPCA for help
 - train your kitten or cat to live indoors
 - train your cat to walk on a leash
- Place a suitable collar, tag and bell* on your cat
- Desex your cat to avoid unwanted kittens
- Vaccinate your cat against diseases, treat it for worms and provide veterinary care



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More Ideas:

- Build a cat enclosure in your garden; it could be connected to your house—phone 136 186 for a booklet—*How to build catproof fencing & cat enclosures* – or go to new.dpi.vic.gov.au/pets/all-about-cats/diy-cat-enclosure-and-fencing
- Never dump an unwanted cat, take it to the RSPCA
- Never feed stray cats. They may spread disease to your cats and hunt native wildlife in your garden. Hire or buy a trap and take them to the RSPCA
- Remove cat doors to prevent your cat straying outdoors and other cats from entering your house
- When going away on holiday leave your cat in a safe home or cattery.



Photo credit: Wild Whiskers

Tips for keeping a happy indoor cat

- Provide good quality food, clean water and clean Kitty Litter
- Provide your cat with a scratching post to climb and a box to sit in next to the window inside your home, and a cat enclosure for its outside adventures
- Provide toys for an interesting indoor environment
- Provide a bunch or pot of fresh grass for your cat to chew. This helps get rid of fur balls and keeps them healthy.
- **Daily play and cuddles will ensure a happy indoor cat!**



Registration Responsibilities

You can register your cat with the Blue Mountains City Council. It is a lifetime registration and will be placed on the NSW Companion Animals Register. The *Companion Animals Act 1998* requires that:

- All cats born after 1 July 1999 must be microchipped and registered for life
- All new kittens must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age and registered by 6 months of age.

Why should I register my cat? **It's the law!**

If your cat is lost, this will help enable your cat to be returned.

Registration Cost:

- \$40 for a desexed cat
- \$150 for an undesexed cat
- \$40 for an undesexed cat owned by a registered breeder
- \$15 for a desexed cat owned by an eligible pensioner

Please notify Blue Mountains City Council of your new address if you have recently moved so the registration details can be updated.

To report nuisance cat issues or for registration information:

Phone: 4780 5000

Email: council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au



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