

Stray and Roaming Cats

When will the Rangers impound a roaming or stray cat?

In most cases cats are allowed to roam freely. However there are a number of circumstances when a cat may be seized and/or impounded. The following sets out the circumstances for when a cat or kitten may be seized and/or impounded.

Feral Cats - A cat that is identified as being feral may be impounded at the Companion Animal Facility. The Council Ranger will determine if the cat is feral or not. If the cat is identified as domestic and not feral the person who has trapped the cat may be asked to take the cat back to where it was trapped and release it.

Sick/Injured Cats - If a cat is sick or injured and requires medical treatment, and the owner cannot be located, it may be seized and/or impounded to provide veterinary care.

Stray Kittens - If a kitten has been found without a mother and is not old enough to care for itself then it may be seized and/or impounded to provide appropriate care.

Surrendered Cats - If a cat is surrendered to Council by its current owner then it may be impounded at the Council's Companion Animal Facility.

Roaming Cats - Any cat located in one of the following areas can be seized and/or impounded by any person or Ranger if the owner isn't present or by the Ranger when the owner refuses to remove the cat:

1. Food preparation/consumption areas. Meaning any public place, or part of a public place, that is within 10 metres of any apparatus provided in that public place or part for the preparation of food for human consumption or for the consumption of food by humans.
2. Wildlife protection areas. Meaning any public place or any part of a public place set apart by the local authority for the protection of wildlife and in which the local authority ordered that cats are prohibited for the purposes of the protection of wildlife and in which, or near the boundaries of which, there are conspicuously exhibited by the local authority at reasonable intervals notices to the effect that cats are prohibited in or on that public place.

What do I do if I have a cat roaming on my property and it isn't eligible to be seized and/or impounded?

If you have a cat roaming onto your property and it is not eligible to be impounded Council suggests you take the following steps.

Don't feed the cat. If a cat has a sufficient food source in any place they will not leave. If you don't feed them they will eventually go home.

Minimise places where cats can breed and where a mother can have her kittens. Areas such as sheds and under the house should be kept closed off to unwanted stray cats.

If the cat has an identification tag, ring the number on the tag and organise for the cat to be returned to its owner.

Ask neighbours if they are missing a cat or know where the cat is from. If the owner is located then organise to have the cat returned to its owner.

How do I trap a feral cat on my property?

There are various commercial hire companies that hire out cat traps. Once you have hired a trap and then trapped the feral cat contact the Council Rangers and arrange to have the cat picked up or you can bring the cat into the Companion Animal Facility yourself. Please remember that if the cat is not feral then the Council may not be able to impound the cat. If the cat is calm when inside the cage and isn't hissing or showing signs of aggression then it is most likely not a feral cat.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

If you have any further enquires please call the Goulburn Mulwaree Council Rangers on (02) 4823 4409.

