



**MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

CATS BY-LAW 2019

By-law No. 6 of 2019

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

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PART 1 – PRELIMINARY**1. Title**

This By-law may be cited as the *Cats By-law 2019* and is By-law No. 6 of the Mount Barker District Council.

2. Authorising law

This By-law is made under section 90 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and section 246 of the Act.

3. Purpose

The objectives 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. Expiry

This By-law will expire on 1 January 2027.

5. Application

- 5.1. This By-law operates subject to the Council's Permits and Penalties By-law 2017.
- 5.2. This By-law applies throughout the Council's area.

6. Interpretation

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

- 6.1. **Act** means the *Local Government Act 1999*
- 6.2. **approved cattery** means a building, structure, premises or area approved by the relevant authority pursuant to the *Development Act 1993* for the keeping of cats on a temporary or permanent basis or, for use in connection with a business involving the keeping of cats, that is operating in accordance with all approvals;
- 6.3. **cat** (except for in clauses 8 and 9) means an animal of the species *felis catus* which is three months of age or has lost its juvenile canine teeth;
- 6.4. **Council** means the Mount Barker District Council;
- 6.5. **effective control by means of physical restraint** means
 - 6.5.1 a person is exercising effective control of a cat by means of a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed 2 metres in length restraining the cat; or

- 6.5.2 a person has effectively secured the cat by placing it in a cage, vehicle or other object or structure.
- 6.6. **keep** includes the provision of food or shelter;
- 6.7. for the purposes of clause 8, a cat (or cats) causes a **nuisance** if it:
 - 6.7.1 unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of a person, including but not limited to a cat(s) displaying aggressive nature or creating unpleasant noise or odour; or
 - 6.7.2 damages or otherwise has an adverse impact upon native flora or fauna; or
 - 6.7.3 acts in a manner that is injurious to a person's real or personal property; or
 - 6.7.4 wanders onto land without the consent of the owner or occupier of the land.
 - 6.7.5 defecates or urinates on land without the consent of the owner or occupier of the land;
- 6.8. **owner** of a cat has the same meaning as in section 5 of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995;
- 6.9. **premises** includes any land, (whether used or occupied for domestic or non-domestic purposes), and any part thereof; and
- 6.10. the **person responsible for the control of a cat** has the same meaning as in section 6 of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

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 –LIMITS ON CAT NUMBERS

7. Limits on cat numbers

- 7.1. Subject to this clause 7, a person must not, without the Council's permission, keep or cause, suffer or permit to be kept more than two (2) cats on any premises
- 7.2. Subclause 7.1 does not apply to:
 - 7.2.1 premises comprising an approved cattery; or
 - 7.2.2 a person who is keeping more than two cats on premises that the person occupies at the time this By-law comes into effect provided that:
 - 7.2.2.1 details as required by the Council of the cats that are kept on the premises at that time are provided to the Council within three (3) months of the commencement of this By-law;
 - 7.2.2.2 all the cats being kept on the premises are desexed;

- 7.2.2.3 no insanitary condition is being caused (or, in the opinion of an authorised person, is likely to be caused) by the cats or the keeping of the cats on the premises; and
 - 7.2.2.4 no nuisance is being caused (or, in the opinion of an authorised person, is likely to be caused) by the cats or by the keeping of the cats on the premises; and
 - 7.2.2.5 no additional cats are acquired or kept on the premises over and above those cats notified to the Council in accordance with subclause 7.2.2.1 after the By-law commences operation.
- 7.3. Council may require that the premises, which are the subject of an application for permission to keep additional cats, must be inspected by an authorised person for the purpose of assessing the suitability of the premises for housing cats.
- 7.4. Permission under subclause 7.3 may be given if the Council is satisfied that:
 - 7.4.1 no insanitary condition exists or is likely to arise on the premises as a result of the keeping of cats; and
 - 7.4.2 a nuisance is not or is not likely to be caused to any neighbour as a result of the keeping of cats on the premises.

PART 3 –CAT CONTROLS

8. Cats not to be a nuisance

- 8.1. An occupier of premises is guilty of an offence if a cat (or cats) kept or allowed to remain on the premises causes a nuisance.
- 8.2. Without limiting liability under clause 8.1, the owner of or person responsible for the control of a cat is guilty of an offence under this By-law if the cat causes a nuisance.
- 8.3. For the purpose of this clause 8, cat means an animal of the species *felis catus* (of any age).

9. Effective confinement of cats

- 9.1. As and from a date determined by resolution of the Council (if any), the owner or person responsible for the control of a cat must take steps to ensure that the cat is confined at all times to the premises occupied by that person between the hours of 8pm and 7am daily unless the cat is under effective control by means of physical restraint.
- 9.2. For the purposes of this subclause 9, **cat** means an animal of the species *felis catus* (of any age).

10. Registration of cats

- 10.1. Where the Council has resolved to adopt a registration scheme for cats, 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.

- 10.2. An application for registration of a cat must:
- 10.2.1 be made to the Council in the manner and form prescribed by Council (if any); and
 - 10.2.2 be accompanied by the fee (if any) prescribed by the Council; and
 - 10.2.3 nominate a person of or over sixteen (16) years of age who consents to the cat being registered in his or her name; and
 - 10.2.4 identify with reference to an address the premises at which the cat is kept; and
 - 10.2.5 otherwise comply with any other requirements determined by the Council.
- 10.3. Registration under this By-law remains in force until 30 June next following the grant of registration and may be renewed from time to time for further periods of up to twelve (12) months.
- 10.4. Subclause 10.1 does not apply to premises comprising an approved cattery
- 10.5. The Council may, by resolution, revoke a resolution to adopt a registration scheme under subclause 10.1 should it see fit to do so.

PART 4 – EXEMPTIONS

11. Council may grant exemptions

- 11.1. The Council may, by notice in writing, on application or on its own initiative, exempt a person (or a class of persons) from the operation of a specified provision of this By-law.
- 11.2. An exemption—
- 11.2.1 may be granted or refused at the discretion of the Council; and
 - 11.2.2 may operate indefinitely or for a period specified in the instrument of exemption; and
 - 11.2.3 is subject to any conditions specified in the instrument of exemption.
- 11.3. The Council may, by notice in writing, vary, revoke or add a condition of an exemption.
- 11.4. The Council may, in its discretion, revoke an exemption for a contravention of a condition of the exemption, or for any other reason it thinks fit.

PART 5 – ENFORCEMENT

12. Orders

- 12.1. If a person engages in conduct that is a contravention of this By-law, an authorised person may order that person:
- 12.1.1 if the conduct is still continuing – to stop the conduct; and

12.1.2 whether or not the conduct is still continuing – to take specified action to remedy the contravention.

12.2. A person must comply with an order under this clause.

12.3. 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 seek to recover its costs of any action so taken from the person to whom the order was directed.

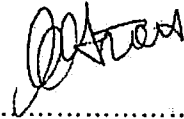
12.4. However, an authorised person may not use force against a person under this section.

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 Mount Barker District Council held on **2 September 2019** 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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ANDREW STUART
Chief Executive Officer