

Cat Legislation Overview

Ownership

- From 1 March 2022, the owner of a cat that is more than four months of age must ensure that the cat is desexed by a veterinary surgeon*
- From 1 March 2022, all cats over four months of age must be implanted with a microchip*
- From 1 March 2022, amendments to the *Cat Management Act 2009* will limit the number of cats a person can keep on an individual property to four cats.

The limit does not apply to a person keeping more than four cats if the person:

- holds a Multiple Cat Permit; or
- is a registered cat breeder; or
- holds a Cat Breeding Permit in relation to all cats in excess of four cats; or
- is operating a cat boarding facility or veterinary establishment; or
- is fostering a cat for a Cat Management Facility or an approved organisation; or
- is minding someone else's cat for less than six months, and the owner of the cat does not reside on the individual property, and no payment is made for keeping the cat.

Breeding

- From 1 March 2022, a person who wishes to breed a cat in Tasmania must be a registered breeder or hold a Cat Breeding Permit.
- A person is considered to be a cat breeder if their cat becomes pregnant or causes another cat to become pregnant, irrespective of whether there was an intention for breeding to take place. Anyone that breeds a litter from a cat, even if kittens will not be offered for sale, is considered a cat breeder.

Nuisance and Roaming Cats

- In Tasmania, the *Cat Management Act 2009* allows primary producers, and people working on their behalf, to trap, seize or humanely destroy any cat found on rural land where livestock are grazed. On other private land that is more than 1 km from a place of residence, a person can trap, seize or humanely destroy a cat. Cats found on any private land, including rural and remote areas, may be returned to their owners or taken to a Cat Management Facility so that the owner can be contacted.
- The *Cat Management Act 2009* permits the following persons to humanely destroy a cat:
 - A person managing primary production on primary production land, (*Primary production land has the same meaning as in the Land Tax Act 2000*);

- A person who is the occupier of production premises,
(*Production premises means premises used (a) in relation to agriculture; or horticulture; or viticulture; or aquaculture; or (b) for the preparation or storage, for commercial purposes, of food for humans or animals; or (c) as an abattoir; or for any associated purpose*);
- A person acting on behalf of a person managing primary production on the primary production land or a person occupying production premises;
- The owner of private premises if the location at which the cat is found is more than 1km from any structure or building used as a place of residence;
- An authorised person, or a person acting on behalf of an authorised person, in a prohibited area,
(*Prohibited areas include Crown Land, private timber reserves, reserved land and land subject to a conservation covenant under the Nature Conservation Act 2002 and State Forests and Reserves*);
- A person responsible for a prohibited area, or a person acting on behalf of a responsible person, in a prohibited area;
- A person or organisation specified in the declaration of a Cat Management Area to undertake humane destruction

All cat management activities must be conducted in accordance with all relevant legislation, including the Cat Management Act 2009, the Animal Welfare Act 1993, and the Firearms Act 1996 Penalties apply for inhumane activities and other breaches of those Acts.

**Some exclusions apply, refer to <https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/responsible-cat-ownership>*

Cat Prohibited Areas

- A Council may declare an area of land that is under its authority a Cat Prohibited Area under the *Cat Management Act 2009*.
- A Cat Prohibited Area is a designated area of land within which cats are prohibited and which cat management measures may take place for a specified period of time. The declaration of a Cat Prohibited Area is useful for proactive protection of key environmental assets.
- Cats are prohibited from reserved land, such as public reserves, timber reserves, and land that is subject to a conservation covenant.

Cat Management Area

- A Council may declare a Cat Management Area under the *Cat Management Act 2009*. A Cat Management Area is a designated area of land within the municipal area of the Council within which cat management measures may take place for a specified period of time.
- The declaration of a Cat Management Area can be useful when there is a desire by the community, with the support of Council, for certain measures to be undertaken in respect of cats, e.g. cat curfews, trapping programs.