

# KING ISLAND CAT SURVEY

The King Island Cat Survey is the product of conversations between TassieCat, Cradle Coast NRM and King Island Landcare Group, as well as the broader King Island community, many of who have expressed concern for the impacts of free-roaming cats.

The survey was launched at the 2023 King Island Agricultural Show and ran for one month, being promoted by stakeholders across social and local media. Community members aged over 18 were encouraged to apply, with 194 responses recorded.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Out of 194 responses...



27.8% were male

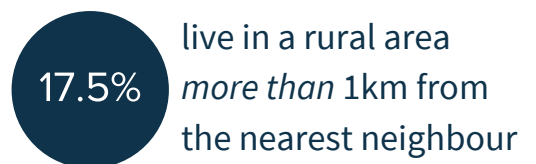
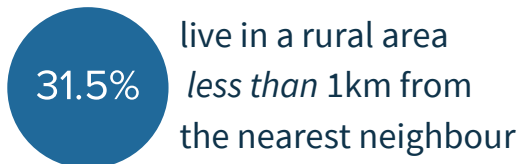
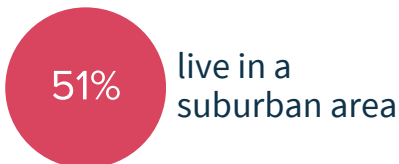
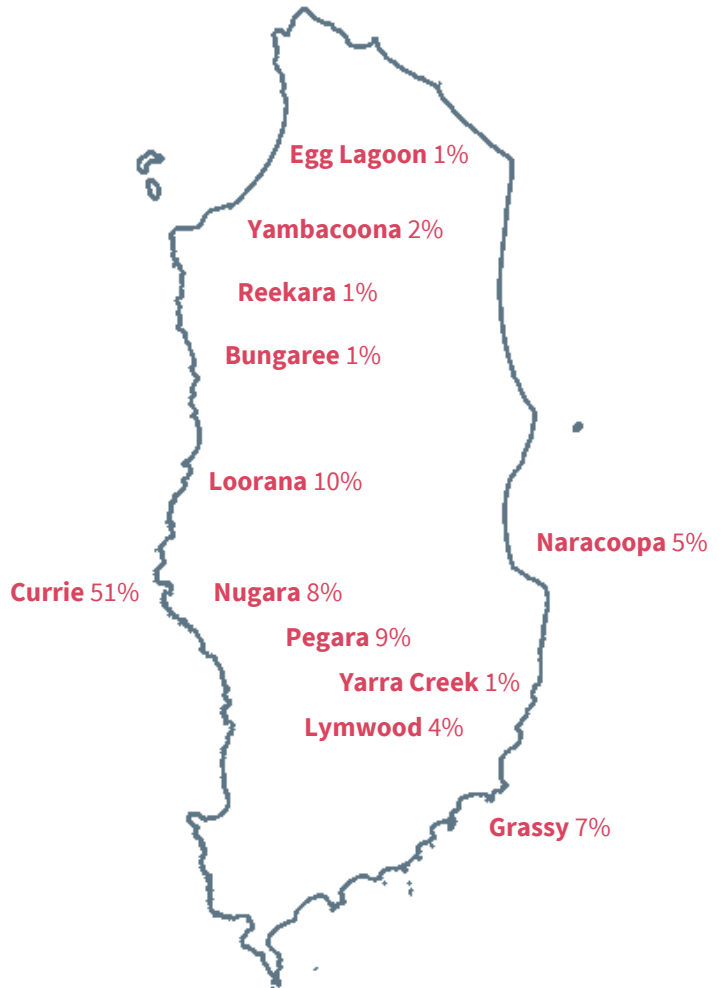
69.6% were female

1% identified as other

1.6% would rather not say

Age	% of responses
18-29	11.9%
30-39	17%
40-49	11.3%
50-59	22.7%
60-69	21.1%
70+	16%

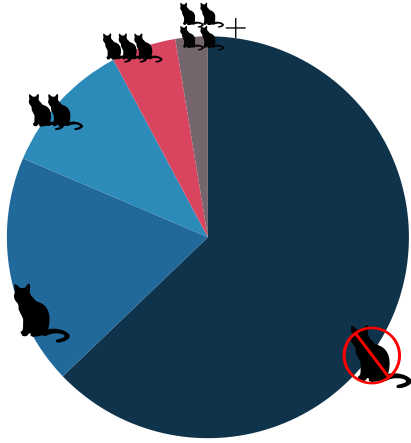
Where do respondents live?



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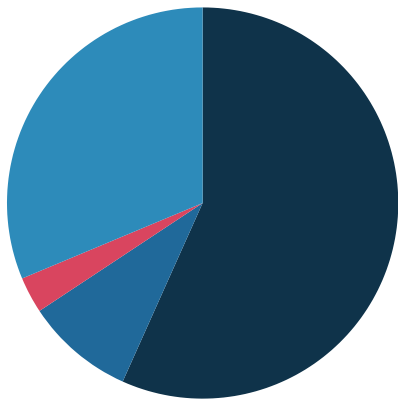
## CAT OWNERSHIP

It's official - King Island has a lot of cat lovers! Survey responses suggest that King Island has a higher proportion of cat ownership than mainland Tasmania. Data suggests that there is a clear sense of responsibility among owners, with a large proportion of cats being desexed.



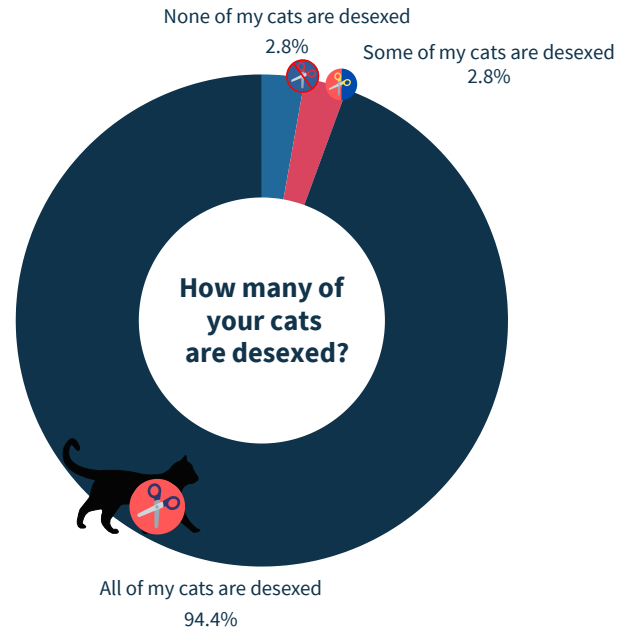
### How many cats do you own?

No cats 62.8%  
One 18.6%  
Two 10.8%  
Three 5.2%  
Four or more 2.6%



### Do you keep your cats contained?

All the time 56.7%  
At night only 9%  
Daytime only 5%  
Never 51.5%

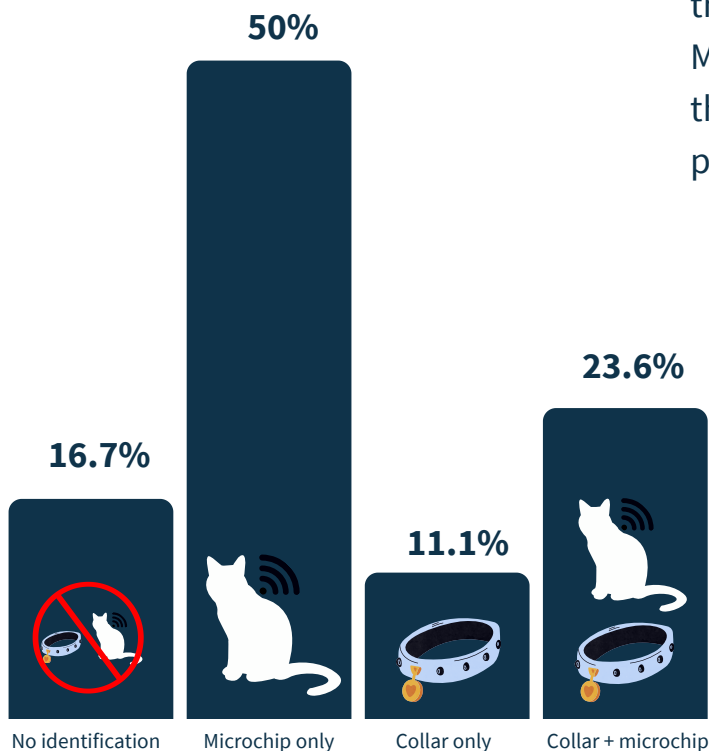


### How many of your cats are desexed?

### Reasons for not desexing:

- Too expensive
- The cat/s being too young
- Wanting to breed from their cat

## How is your cat(s) identified?



Many pet cats are also microchipped, however this is an area that could be further improved. Many pet owners also allow their cats to roam, so there are still steps that can be taken to improve pet and wildlife safety.

### Reasons for not being microchipped:

- Too expensive
- Not considering it/not deemed relevant
- The cat being too young or old
- Belief that microchips won't be checked even if a cat is picked up
- The cat doesn't go anywhere
- "Just haven't gotten around to it"

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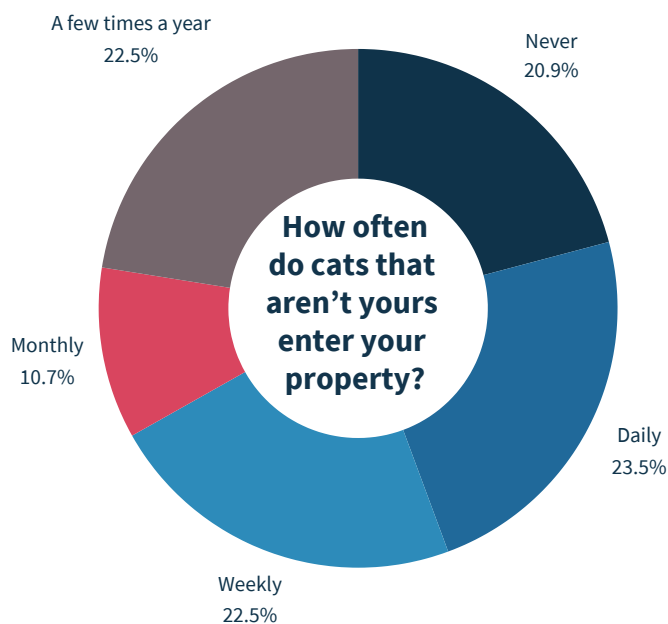
## FREE ROAMING CATS

The survey data suggests as that roaming cats are spotted everywhere across King Island, and this is cause for concern because King Island is home to two endemic and critically- endangered bird species. The island’s location in Bass Strait also means it is an important stop over for several migratory species.

Sightings of cats around homes and suburban areas also pose a risk to animal and human safety, and can create a nuisance.



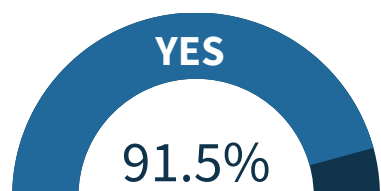
**66.3%** of respondents are concerned about this.



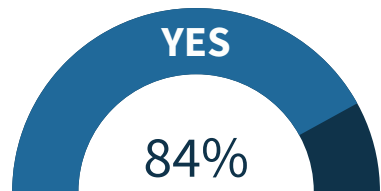
### Reasons being:

- Impacts on wildlife
- Spread of diseases such as toxoplasmosis
- Nuisance issues
- Impacts on their own pets & livestock

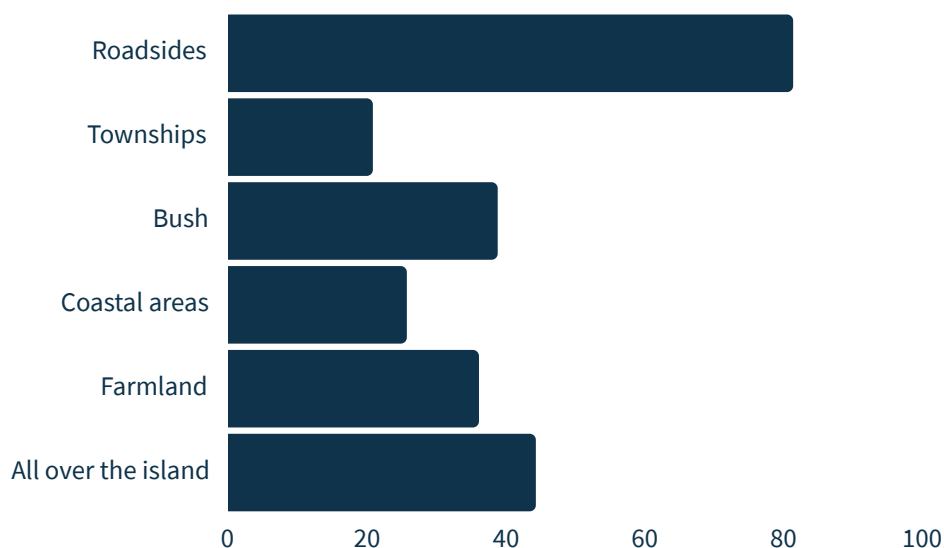
## Where do you see roaming cats?



Are you aware of stray/feral cats on King Island?



Is this a concern to you?



Respondents were namely concerned about impacts to **wildlife, spreading disease** and impacts on **tourism**.

