

# Cat Breeders

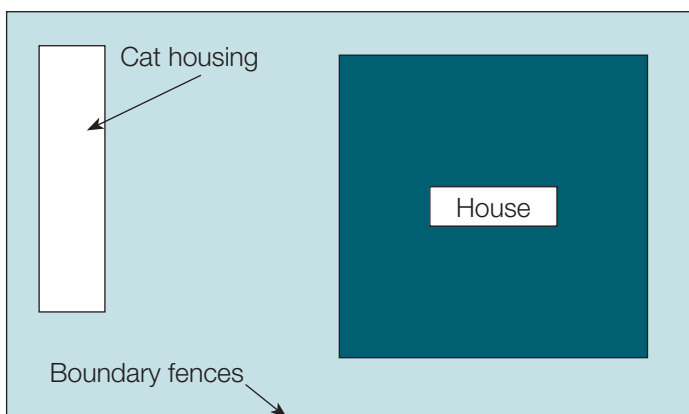
The following information is provided to assist cat breeders when submitting an application, and for the City of Joondalup to assess your application to breed cats under the provisions of the *Cat Act 2011*.

Please be aware that if you expect to have a high volume of customer/supplier visits to your breeding premises you may be required to submit a home business application.

## Minimum application requirements

The following points are the minimum requirements for the City to process an application; further information may be required during the application assessment:

- Inform your neighbours of your intention to breed cats.
- Provide the City with detailed information as to what cat breeding arrangements are proposed, including cage sizes.
- Indicate how many litters are proposed for each Queen (female breeding cat) per year.
- Advise how many visiting customers you expect each year.
- Detail the management plan of breeding cats and kittens, including veterinary care.
- Indicate how the disposal of waste materials will be carried out. For example, soiled litter, disinfectants etc.
- Indicate if you vaccinate cats yourself and the method of disposal for sharps i.e sharps container onsite.
- Advise how the noise levels of cats will be managed. For example; during the oestrous cycle of the Queen, customer visitations to the property etc.
- Provide a site plan (at 1:200 scale) of your property showing structures where cats will be kept and their proximity to other structures such as houses and boundary fences. Please refer to the following example.



## Inspection of property

Prior to approval of your application a Ranger will contact you and arrange for an inspection of your premises to assess suitability relevant to your application.

## Approval conditions

Should your application be approved, you will be required to maintain the following minimum standards. The City's Ranger Services will be required to inspect the property to ensure standards are being maintained.

## Diets for cats

The following items should be observed to ensure a suitable diet is provided to breeding cats:

- Breeding cats should receive a daily diet in adequate quantities containing nutrients to meet their requirements for their stage of life to maintain them in good health.
- An adult breeding cat should be well proportioned and have an observable waist behind the ribs when viewed from above and from the side. Ribs should be palpable (able to be touched or felt), but with a light fat covering. The abdominal pad should be minimal; excessive fat here indicates obesity, which can contribute to disease.
- Water is an essential daily requirement for the proper functioning of the body. A bowl of fresh water should be made available to the cat at all times. Water needs to be changed daily ensuring the size of the bowl is sufficient to sustain the cat/s throughout the warmer weather conditions, particularly if they are fed a dried biscuit diet.

## Housing for cats

The following are the minimum requirements for construction of cat housing:

- Cages should be constructed of solid, non-absorbable materials and be secure.
- Caged cats must have sufficient room to enable them to stretch and move around freely, and must be provided with appropriate areas for feeding and toileting.
- Caged cats must be provided with the opportunity to

engage in play and exercise daily.

- Animals housed in cages/units within such locations as homes or garages must have access to sunshine and be well ventilated.
- Outdoor housing/units must protect cats from rain, wind, extreme heat and cold and must be partially covered to provide a comfortable sheltered sleeping area.
- Enclosures for cats must meet the following minimum size standards.
  - A minimum area of 1.5m<sup>2</sup>.
  - A minimum dimension of 90cm wide and 180cm in height.
- All housing areas for cats must be maintained in a safe, clean and hygienic condition at all times.
- Cages/units must be designed and maintained to avoid injury and/or escape.
- Cat litter must be cleaned daily.
- Disinfectants containing phenol must never be used around cats.
- Caged cats should have access to climbing ramps, platforms, sleeping shelves and scratching posts or pads.
- Caged cats should have daily access to sunlight (when available).
- Caged areas should be adequately ventilated for the control of dampness and noxious odours and to minimise the airborne spread of infectious disease such as viral respiratory disease.

## Exercise

While cats may appear to spend a large amount of time sleeping, exercise is important for the health and well-being of the cat.

## Hygiene

- Food and water bowls should be washed daily.
- One deep litter tray should be provided for each individual cat plus one extra if they live together.
- The litter material should be discarded every few days from a litter tray, and the tray cleaned and disinfected.

## Health

It should be noted that purring is not necessarily an indicator of good health:

- Cats which are observed by their owners to be showing signs of ill health should receive appropriate veterinary attention.
- Cats should have an annual health check conducted by a veterinarian.
- Kittens should receive a course of vaccinations from the age of eight weeks. All cats should be vaccinated according to veterinarians' recommendations.
- Kittens should be wormed every two weeks, starting at three – four weeks of age and continuing to three months of age. Cats over three months of age should be wormed every three months.
- Light coloured cats should be protected from the threat of skin cancer with the regular application on nose and ears of appropriate animal sunscreen, especially during the summer.
- There should be an isolation facility available for sick cats to prevent the spread of disease to the rest of the population.

## Additional Cats

Cats that you no longer wish to breed from must be sterilised, unless an exemption has been obtained from a veterinarian. Once sterilised, cats must be registered with the City as a non-breeding animal.

If you wish to increase or replace your breeding cats, a new application is required to be submitted to the City.

## Further information

For further information please contact the City's Ranger Services on **9400 4960**.

Alternatively, you may wish to visit one of the City's Customer Service Centre's for assistance and information or visit the City's website at [joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au)

*Last Reviewed January 2014*