HORSHAM
Rural City Council

HISTORY

Horsham Rural City has a cat curfew in effect. The curfew requires cats to be confined to the owner's premises between sunset and sunrise (overnight). If they are caught or trapped during this time, infringements can be issued.

The cat curfew is not about keeping cats inside the house, but confining your cat to your property's boundary. However, cats that are not confined during the day (non-curfew hours) can still be trapped if a resident objects to the cat being on their property.

If your cat is trapped outside your property by a member of the public or a Council Community Safety officer, attempts will be made to reunite it with you. The quickest way to achieve this is by ensuring your cat is currently microchipped, registered with council and wearing a council registration ID tag.

HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL – MUNICIPAL ORDER

Cats found at large between sunset and sunrise.

An order of Council was passed at its meeting on 12th of December 1995, which restricts cats to their owner's premises. between sunset and sunrise is now law.

Notice of the order was published in the Victorian Government Gazette on 16th of May 1996. The power to make this law is contained in Section 25(2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Penalties of the Act

Section 25(1) of the Act states:

25 Cats found at large

(1) If a cat is found at large outside the premises of the owner or not securely confined to the owner's premises, in a municipal district or a specified part of a municipal district in respect of which an order under this section has been made, during the hours specified in the order, the owner is guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty of not more than 1 penalty unit for a first offence and 3 penalty units for a second or subsequent offence.

(2) A Council may, by resolution, make an order under this section.

(3) An order made by a Council under this section must be published in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the municipal district of the Council making the order.

Address correspondence to: Chief Executive Officer PO Box 511 Horsham Victoria 3402
Civic Centre 18 Roberts Avenue Horsham Victoria 3400
Ph 03 5382 9777   **Email** council@hrcc.vic.gov.au   **Website:** www.hrcc.vic.gov.au

CAT TRAPPING PROGRAM CONDITIONS

Contact Horsham Rural City Council on 03 5382 9777 to arrange collection of the trap.

Trap hire is free for the first 14 days

SETTING THE TRAP

- Instructions for setting the trap will be provided by the Community Safety Officer delivering the trap.

- You will need to provide your own food to place in the trap. We recommend cat food, Sardines in oil, Tuna or chopped bacon (must be heated in microwave first). You may need to change the food source if you are unsuccessful in trapping.

WHEN TO SET THE TRAP

- Traps are only to be set <u>Sunday night</u> to <u>Thursday night</u>. The trap is **NOT** to be set during daylight hours.

- Traps must be closed during the day or if you are away from your property for more than one night.

- Traps are **NOT** to be set Friday & Saturday night, or prior to a Public Holiday.

WHAT TO DO IF A CAT IS CAUGHT IN THE TRAP

- Complete the 'Cat Trap Statement' provided by the Community Safety Officer who delivered the trap for each contained cat. The statement is only valid if the cat is caught between sunset and sunrise.

- Leave the statement in the envelop provided for the Community Safety Officer when collecting the trapped cat. The statement must be signed and witnessed by the officer upon collection, or a person over 18 years of age.

- Ring Horsham Rural City Council on 03 5382 9777 between 8.30am and 9am Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays) to arrange the collection of the cat. Please let the customer service officer know if you would like the trap left at your property to be used again, or if you would like the officer to remove the trap at that time.

- Cats will **NOT** be collected after 2pm.

- **YOU** are responsible for the welfare of the cat whilst it is contained within the trap on your property. This means the trap must be placed in a sheltered, shaded area. The trap should be covered with a clean towel or blanket to keep the cat calm and should be placed in an area where other animals (particularly dogs) can **NOT** access the trap.

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