

**or our native
wildlife's worst
enemy.**



Where is your cat at the moment? Could it be harming native wildlife? Is it crossing a road? The information in this brochure will help you better protect and enjoy both your cat and our native wildlife.

Cats and wildlife how you can protect both

Glamorgan Spring Bay Cat Management Project

Further help and information

For further information regarding the Glamorgan Spring Bay Cat Management Project, the Tasmanian Cat Management Bill 2009, responsible cat ownership or feral cats, please contact:

Glamorgan Spring Bay Cat Management Project

NRM Project Unit

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

Phone: (03) 6256 5058

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For more information, visit the Natural Resource Management page on www.gsbc.tas.gov.au

"Cats and wildlife – how you can protect both" was prepared by the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council. It was based on brochures of the same name produced by the Bruny Island Cat Control Project, the Department for Environment and Natural Resources, SA and by the King Island Natural Resource Management Group.

Glamorgan Spring Bay Cat Management Project is a joint initiative of:



GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY
COUNCIL



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



CATCHMENTS TO COAST



Glamorgan Spring Bay
Natural Resource Management



TASMANIA
BARRIERS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Feb 2012

**Your cat...
a companion...**



**Cats and wildlife
HOW YOU CAN PROTECT BOTH
Glamorgan Spring Bay
Cat Management Project**

Cats and wildlife – helping to protect both

The Tasmanian Parliament passed the *Cat Management Act* in 2009. The Act is likely to be enacted as of 1 July 2012. This legislation will introduce mandatory desexing and identification of domestic cats within four years. The new laws are designed to protect people's pets, and Tasmania's unique diversity of wildlife.

Cats are both pets and predators

CAT FACT:

A domestic cat will kill, on average, 16 mammals, 8 birds and 8 reptiles a year.

As pets, cats are wonderful companion animals. However, they are also very efficient predators of our native wildlife.

Tasmania's unique wildlife evolved in an environment that did not include cats. The relatively recent introduction of cats to Tasmania has added a predator, with new hunting techniques, that has changed the natural balance.

Cats, especially those that roam, are the host for a blood disease called Toxoplasmosis, which can affect wildlife and is very harmful to humans and to livestock. Roaming cats may also catch and spread to other cats the incurable and fatal feline AIDS virus.

How well do you know your cat?



All cats, even pets, instinctively hunt

CAT FACT:

Research shows that cats wearing a bell on a collar can still easily catch and kill wildlife!

Cats that live near bushland or other natural environments are likely to kill a wide range of wildlife. Town cats can have a large effect because their numbers in these areas are high and numbers of native animals are generally low.

Wildlife that feeds or nests on or near the ground is most at risk. For example, shearwaters and little penguins that nest near Bicheno and Swansea are often taken by cats. In the Glamorgan Spring Bay area, small native mammals such as Tasmanian bettongs, little pygmy possums, Antechinus (marsupial mouse), the native swamp rat, eastern barred bandicoots and the endangered New Holland mouse are also at high risk of predation by cats.

Glamorgan Spring Bay is also home to a number of endangered and vulnerable bird species – the swift parrot, fairy and little terns. These small terns as well as the small hooded plovers and red-capped plovers are particularly at risk of cat predation as they nest in scrapes in beach sand. Other ground-dwelling birds at risk of cat attack in this region include the superb (blue) wren, flame robin, dusky and scarlet robin, thornbills, scrubtits, bronzewings, spotted quail thrush, firetails and all the honeyeaters. Ground-feeding rosellas such as the eastern rosella and Tasmanian endemic green rosella are also vulnerable to cat predators.

The green and gold frog and striped marsh frog are included on the threatened species list in Tasmania and are at risk of predation by cats. Small lizards such as the metallic skink, spotted skink, delicate grass skink and the beautifully patterned and disappearing mountain devil are also taken by cats.

Even well-fed cats will instinctively hunt. Prey that is not immediately killed is likely to die later from shock or infection.

4 ways you can better care for your cat

CAT FACT:

Desexed pet cats that are prevented from roaming live, on average, four times longer than others!

1. Have your cat desexed

- * A desexed cat lives longer and is less territorial. It will wander, fight and mark its territory less, and generally makes a better pet.
- * Desexing prevents unwanted litters of kittens that contribute to stray and feral cat populations, and to the ongoing destruction of native wildlife.

2. Identify your cat as a pet

- * Cats that are lost, and are micro-chipped or have a collar with identification, can be identified and returned safely home to their owners.

3. Never dump your unwanted kittens or cat

- * Dumped cats can become feral and will prey heavily on wildlife as a food source. Unwanted animals should be given to a good home or humanely euthanased. Contact your local veterinarian for assistance.

4. Keep your cat from roaming

- * Cats kept indoors in a special 'cat yard' won't prey on wildlife. And you will enjoy their company more too.
- * Pet cats that are prevented from roaming are protected from injury, snake bite and from catching diseases from feral cats.
- * Some people keep cats confined only at night. This will reduce their impact on nocturnal wildlife, but not on wildlife such as lizards and birds that are active during the day. Keep your cat confined both day and night.