

CAT TRAPPING PROTOCOL AND CONDITIONS OF CAGE HIRE

Date Trap Received: _____ Date Due Back: _____

Conditions of Trap Hire

1. The hirer may commence **trapping** under the following circumstances:
Under section 23 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 if cats are found trespassing on private property at any time without the permission of the landowner or occupier.
2. Trapped cats may be **impounded** at the pound of the Council in which your property is located under the following circumstances:
Unidentified cats (whose owners are unknown) trapped under section 23 may be immediately taken to your Council's pound.
If an identified cat is trapped under section 23, you **must immediately notify your local Council (Ph. 03 5232 9400)**. Council will record the registration/identification details of the cat before releasing it or returning it to the owner. Council will serve a notice of objection to the owner of the trespassing cat informing them that the cat does not have permission to be on that property.
If the same identified cat trespasses on the property again after a notice has been served it may then be trapped and impounded.
3. The trap is not to be used to trap any other animal or for any purpose other than the one described within these conditions.
4. It is the responsibility of the person conducting trapping to ensure the cat has sufficient water and protection from extremes of weather and predators while in the trap, and that it is not left in any circumstances which could lead to cruelty (as defined under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*).
5. A hire fee of \$15.00 is required per trap. It is the hirer's responsibility to ensure that the trap is returned in good working condition. If not, the hirer will be liable for any necessary repair or replacement costs.
6. The trap is hired for up to 5 days (Monday to Friday) and is to be returned whether or not the cat has been caught. Extensions of the hiring period can be discussed with a Council Officer.
7. If trapped cats are to be impounded (see Condition 2) the Local Laws Department must be contacted on 03 5232 9400 during the hours of 8.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Trapping Protocol

1. A regular daily feeding routine must have been established prior to trapping. The cat should have been fed in the same place (preferably in the shade) at the same time (preferably just before dusk) by the same person.
2. The cat **MUST NOT** be fed for 24 hours prior to setting the trap to ensure it is sufficiently hungry to enter the trap. Fishy food is the most successful lure as it is strong smelling (no-name brands are more than adequate). The trap should be set in a shady or sheltered area in the vicinity where the regular feeds have been conducted.
3. Traps should be checked regularly and preferably not left unattended (cats are vulnerable once trapped and their welfare must be a priority). Cats should be released or taken to the Municipal Pound as soon as possible after capture to avoid unnecessary stress and suffering (e.g. exposure to inclement weather).
4. Cats must **NOT** be transported in enclosed car boots and if the weather is hot, water **MUST** be provided (the back plate may be lifted slightly and a water bowl put in), Cages should be covered with a blanket to help calm the cat but still provide adequate ventilation.

