

# Report on Bruny Island Cat Owner Survey

July 2017



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## Background

Kingborough Council has committed to the phase-in of By-laws for cat ownership on Bruny Island. The By-law proposal includes the compulsory de-sexing and micro-chipping of domestic cats, a limit on the number of cats per household, the 24 hour containment of domestic cats and a prohibition on the feeding of stray or feral cats. The By-law aims to reduce the source of un-wanted and stray cats; limit the impact of domestic cats on wildlife and agriculture; and ensure protection for domestic cats during feral cat control programs on the island.

A range of community education and engagement activities are being undertaken to support implementation of the By-law which is being phased in over three years. To begin active consultation with individual cat owners the 'Bruny Island Cat Owner Survey' was promoted and distributed via Survey Monkey, email and mail. The survey asked about current practice (e.g. numbers of cats, desexing, containment, feeding stray cats etc); support for individual components of the By-law and assistance needed for full compliance.

Between December 2016 and June 2017 the survey process engaged 28 households with cats and 80% (22) of these have completed the survey. This report summarises the results from those surveys and makes recommendations for supporting cat owners to comply with the By-law. Special thanks goes to Karen Marriot for analysing the results of the survey.

## Summary of findings

The majority (86%) of these 22 households own 1 or 2 cats, only 2 households had more than 3 cats and 88% said the legal limit on the number of cats per household should be one to three. For the 2 households with more than 3 cats, having undesexed cats and feeding strays were the reasons given for their larger numbers.

Most households have desexed and microchipped cats (96% and 86% respectively), however roughly a quarter of all cats included in the survey were not desexed or microchipped due to the large number of cats in one household. Providing financial subsidies was identified most frequently by respondents to encourage desexing and micro-chipping. This was followed by offering these services on the island.

When asked about containment: 41% of households stated that their cats are either inside 24hrs/day or in a cat enclosure; 23% keep their cats inside at night only and 36% of households allow their cats to roam freely (equating to 48% of the cats covered in the survey). Importantly 65% stated that cats should be confined to their house and/or yard, rather than to the limits of their property. The need to protect wildlife and cats were the most common reasons given for containing ones cat.

The beliefs that containment is not natural and 'my cat doesn't roam' were the most common reasons (53%) for not containing cats. A further 10% stated it is because containment is not compulsory. Interestingly, together, the phasing in of compulsory cat containment and access to

technical advice, cheap materials and building assistance were identified by 71% of households to help the transition to containment. However 22% of households stated that they were not prepared to contain their cats.

The majority of households (68%) support cat registration and 59% are prepared to use a collar and tag to identify their cats. Concern about the lack of benefits was the most common barrier to registration, while most opposition to the use of collars/tags was due to the belief it is unnecessary if cats are contained or concern for the cat's safety. Two households reported feeding stray cats. Conversations with these household members, has found that concern for the welfare of cats is the key motivating factor. Other cat owners most commonly thought that education and management of stray cats would reduce feeding.

Respondents stated that the most effective ways to notify them about these issues is via email (57%), Bruny News (21%) and phone (10%). Interestingly mail accounted for only 7% and social media 4% of preferences.

Of the six cat owners, who to date, have not completed the survey: four are likely to complete the survey in the near future once further individual home contact is made and concerns can be further aired and addressed; one will require more time to consider the issue and see the results as the program unfolds; and one household has not been contactable.

## Recommendations

Research indicates that programs that rely solely on education and/or legislation are often ineffectual in achieving long term behaviour change. Rather, behaviour change programs are most successful when they address an individual's capability (a person's physical and psychological capacity to undertake the behaviour), opportunity (external factors that prompt or enable a behaviour) and motivation (internal factors that direct and impel an individual to behave in a particular manner) (McLeod et al 2015a).

In order to do so, it is vital to understand what prevents and motivates people to undertake the desired behaviour/s and thus plan strategies accordingly. This survey is the first step in this process and individual discussions are now underway to explore these issues more thoroughly.

The survey results indicate that the transition to cat containment is the most challenging action for cat owners to undertake. A 2015 northern Tasmanian study of cat-owners' found four main barriers to cat containment - the belief that roaming is necessary for a cat's well-being, a lack of motivation and care for ones' cat and a belief that it is too difficult. It recommended that to address these issues a focus on the benefits of containment; promoting outdoor containment options plus enrichment of indoor environments; and on developing individuals capacity (e.g. thru personal advice and practical assistance) to effectively contain their cats (McLeod et al 2015b). The results of our survey of Bruny Island cat owners (specifically the barriers and motivators to cat containment) and the strategies and recommendations below align with the 2015 study.

To address these issues and the recommended program components, Kingborough Council in partnership with Ten Lives Cat Centre (TLCC), Bruny Island Environment Network (BIEN) and Bruny Island Community Association (BICA), are, or will be, rolling-out a range of programs and services.

**1. Capability** - a person's physical and psychological capacity to undertake the behaviour:

- *subsidised desexing, microchipping and rehoming* are currently being offered (by TLCC) to individual households where necessary on Bruny. Most households approached, have taken up this opportunity and to date over 40 cats have been managed.

This approach is particularly effective when working with households with large number of cats. In these cases, it is particularly recommended that issues of animal welfare and capacity to provide the necessary basic care (incl vaccinations, worming, flea treatment, dental and oral health) be addressed and discussed during this process. A handout has been prepared on the basic preventative treatment for cats and the associated costs. In addition, information and advice be provided on how best to provide for the physical and emotional needs of contained cats and the benefits to the cats and their owners, not least the quality of the relationships between owners and individual cats.

- *visits to households* is now underway to identify the individual barriers and support needed to comply with the By-laws, particularly to *plan and establish enclosures* that suit house design and the needs of individual cats. Builders and an animal behaviourist have been engaged to provide the necessary building technical and personal advice on how to contain people's cats. Depending on individual requirements groups sessions and/or individual household visits will be undertaken by the builder and behaviourist.

These sessions also provide opportunity to identify other individual barriers and needs/motivators and thus provide the individual support or information required.

Our survey results found that only a third of households confine their cats at all times or have the current capacity to do so. It is recommended that future resources focus on providing adequate support to each household, particularly on how to develop convenient and effective containment (incl outdoor options and environmental enrichment) and to address stress behaviours in cats that may occur during the transition. It is recommended that funds be allocated for a builder and animal behaviourist to undertake this work (where necessary), for the provision of cheap building materials and a simple written cat containment guide that addresses these issues be developed and distributed.

**2. Opportunity** - external factors that prompt or enable a behaviour:

- *A cat assessment and holding facility* will be established at Council's Alonnah site later in 2017. The facility is being funded by TLCC and Council and will provide a place to assess all cats captured; house and care for domestic and stray cats (for claiming or adoption); and where vets can perform de-sexing and microchipping. The facility will help to reassure cat owners that any domestic cats trapped under the By-laws or the broader feral cat trapping program will be safely returned.
- *A Community Ranger position* will be established on Bruny prior to full implementation of the By-law. The Ranger will undertake community liaison, education and enforcement of the domestic cat by-laws. As identified in the survey, the physical presence of the Ranger on the island will be particularly important to motivate cat containment through active on-ground enforcement. Importantly the position will also promote the legal rights and responsibilities of community members in relation to the humane treatment of all cats. This role is vital to support community cohesion about cat management.

**3. Motivation** - internal factors that direct and impel an individual to behave in a particular manner:

- *Peer education from other cat owners* – ‘*Inside with Cats*’ is a series of stories on the benefits and practicalities of cat containment from a cat owner’s perspective. A range of stories (incl from Bruny) have been recorded (print and photos). They depict varied approaches (incl indoor, outdoor enclosures, fenced yards, harness and lead) to successful cat containment that provide for a cat’s physical and emotional needs.

Six of these stories are now being videoed for use on social media and youtube. These stories will be promoted as a part of a larger social media campaign on domestic cat containment being developed in conjunction with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and TLCC. Personal stories / peer education can be a powerful tool to support behaviour change (McLeod et al 2015a) and it is also hoped these stories will inspire many more cat owners to share their experiences.

It will be important to ensure these stories reach our target Bruny audience. Over the past 10 months regular stories have been included in the monthly Bruny News which is well read by the Bruny community. [It is recommended that these stories, video links and supporting information also be emailed directly to Bruny cat owners and where this is not appropriate, mailed.](#)

The survey found several new Bruny cat owners willing to share their story. [It is recommended that this opportunity be seized and funding made available to record the stories \(print with photos\) and where appropriate videos developed.](#)

- *Work with the Bruny Island District School*, underway since November 2016, is working through the PWS wildscool program, including wildlife monitoring, domestic cat tracking and creating community promotional stickers and postcards on responsible pet cat ownership (RPO). The stickers and postcards will target Bruny residents and visitors in an inclusive way from a child’s perspective. They aim to support long term attitudinal change among current and future cat owners by contributing to a proud Bruny culture in support of RPO.

[It is recommended that future community education funds be directed to ensuring the development of adequate numbers and the effective \*\*distribution\*\* of the stickers and postcards.](#)

- *The Cat Tracker project* that started in South Australia has demonstrated that it is a powerful tool to raise awareness among cat owners of just how far domestic cats roam and the associated risks. It has found significant positive change in favour of containment as a result of tracking domestic cats and/or completing the associated on-line survey. This project is being rolled out later in 2017 across the municipality, including Bruny. It will be an important strategy to test the belief that “my cat doesn’t roam”. This was stated by 26% of the cat owners (completing this survey) whose cats are allowed to roam freely.

[While a few cat owners have nominated to be involved in the Cat Tracker project, strategic and positive promotion will be important, particularly focussing on how participation will lead to a better understanding of, and ability to care for one’s cat. It is recommended that promotion be focussed on the school community and individual cat owners identified in the survey, and that funds be made available to purchase 6 GPS cat trackers so that the program has its own supply.](#)

**The key recommendations** are to:

- continue individual one-on-one cat owner engagement to identify and address individual barriers and motivators to RPO;
- enhance the established programs particularly to build cat owner *capability* and *motivation* (as highlighted above), specifically:
  1. extend the advisory and design/building assistance to all individual households (with cats) requiring assistance.
  2. develop and distribute a cat containment guide. The guide will include containment options; environmental enrichment for a cat's physical and emotional needs; addressing stressors in individual cats; and training principles to support transition.
  3. document and photograph new cat containment stories (& where appropriate video).
  4. print and distribute (to individual households on Bruny) additional RPO stickers (developed by students on Bruny).
  5. purchase 4 GPS cat trackers for use with the program.
- continue to promote the By-law engagement program so that ideally all Bruny cat owners are engaged. Door-knock Bruny households (over summer) to discuss the By-laws and broader cat management on the island and ultimately engage more cat owners. Consideration will then be given to undertake a mail-out to all Bruny households and rate payers.

## References

Mcleod, L.J., et al 2015b. Born to roam? Surveying cat owners in Tasmania, Australia, to identify drivers and barriers to cat containment. PREVET (2015), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.pvetmed.2015.11.007>

Mcleod, L.J., et al 2015a. Born to roam? Applying behavioural theories to invasive animal management: Towards an integrated framework. JENVMAN (2015), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2015.06.048>



## Survey Results

### Q1 Are you a resident and/or ratepayer of Bruny Island and own or are thinking of owning a cat/s?

Answered: 22 (100%); Skipped: 0

### Q2 Address

Answered: 22 (100%); Skipped: 0

### Q3 If you own a cat/s, how many live in your household?

Answered: 22 (100%); Skipped: 0

Number of cats	Households	%	Total # of cats
1	14	63.6	14
2	5	22.7	10
3	1	4.6	3
More than 3	2	9.1	15

The total number of cats included in the survey to date is 42. 91% of households account for 27 cats in total while 9% of households account for 15 cats in total.

### Most households are limiting the number of cats that are kept.

### Q4 If you do not own a cat are you currently thinking about getting one?

Answered: 1 (4.5%); Skipped: 21

One resident that already owns 2 cats answered yes to this question.

### Q5 Where did your cat/s come from?

Answered: 21 (95%); Skipped: 1

	Responses	% of responses	Total % Other
Pet shop	1	4.2	
Received as a gift			
Adopted a stray	2	8.3	
From friends/neighbours	6	25	
Hobart Cat Centre/RSPCA	9	37.5	
Advertisement (online/newspaper)			
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>25</b>
Registered breeder	3	12.5	
Cat moved in	1	4.2	
Offspring of own cat	2	8.3	

Households with more than one cat gave multiple responses where the cats came from different sources. Two households gave multiple responses where they now own only one cat. One household did not answer the question. Thus it was impossible to determine from the responses exactly how many cats came from each source.

Two respondents chose 'Other' and said their cats came from a cat home/rescue centre. These responses have been moved to Hobart Cat Centre/RSPCA. The 'Other' responses have been broken down for this question.

**The largest percentage of cats came from cat home/rescue centres, followed by friends and neighbours.**

**Q6 Is your cat/s micro-chipped?**

Answered: 22 (100%); Skipped: 0

	Households	%	# of cats	%
Yes	19	86.4	30	71.4
No	2	9.1	11	26.2
Not sure, has a tattoo	1	4.5	1	2.4

**While the majority of households microchip their cats, almost a third of the number of cats from the survey remain unmicrochipped.**

**Q7 If any of your cats are not microchipped, are there any particular reasons why?**

Answered: 2 (9%); Skipped: 20

	Households	%	# of cats	%
Unable to afford it	1	50	10	90.9
Cat doesn't wander or is contained	1	50	1	9.1
Do not agree with microchipping				
Have been unable to do it yet				
It is not compulsory				
Cat is too young or too old				
Have to travel from the Island to have the procedure performed				
Other (please specify)				

**The one household where the majority of unmicrochipped cats live, cite financial reasons for not microchipping.**

**Q8 Would you microchip your cat/s if:** (note: the current cost of micro-chipping per cat varies from \$25 at the Hobart Cat Centre to \$45 at various other veterinary practices)

Answered: 3 (14%); Skipped: 19

	Responses	% of responses
It was cheaper	1	20
It was free	2	40
It was able to be done on the island	2	40
I am not prepared to microchip my cat/s		
Other (please specify)		

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Only the responses of those whose cats are not microchipped, or are unsure, have been analysed. One of these gave three responses.

Three respondents whose cats are already microchipped commented that:

- people should microchip as part of being a responsible cat owner;
- it should be available on the island; and
- it should be free.

**From the responses received it would appear that making microchipping cheaper, or free, and providing the service on the island, would increase the uptake.**

**Q9 What support or assistance would best help cat owners microchip their cats?**

Answered: 13 (59%); Skipped: 9

	Responses	% of responses
Financial	11	61.1
Vet to visit island	4	22.2
Education	3	16.7

Five respondents gave more than one response.

**The majority of respondents felt that financial assistance would best help cat owners to microchip.**

**Q10 Is your cat/s de-sexed?**

Answered: 22 (100%); Skipped: 0

	Households	%	# of cats	%
Yes	21	95.5	32	76.2
No	1	4.5	10	23.8

**While the overwhelming majority of households in the survey de-sex their cats, almost a quarter of the total number of cats have not been de-sexed.**

**Q11 If your cat/s is not de-sexed, how many are male and/or female?**

Answered: 1 (4.5%); Skipped: 21

**In the one household where the cats are not de-sexed 5 are male, 1 is female and 4 are kittens.**

**Q12 If your cat/s are not de-sexed, are there any particular reason/s why?**

Answered: 0; Skipped: 22

	Households	%
Cat/s too young		
Haven't been able to do it yet		
I do not like de-sexing my cat/s		
I do not believe de-sexing is good for cats		
De-sexing is not compulsory		
I believe a female cat should		



have at least one litter of kittens before being de-sexed		
Have to travel from the Island to have the procedure performed		
Other (please specify)		

**The single household where cats are not de-sexed did not answer this question.**

**Q13 Would you de-sex your cat/s if:** (note: in Tasmania the cost to de-sex a male cat varies from around \$100 for a kitten to \$170 for an adult. The cost to de-sex a female cat is around \$230)

Answered: 7 (32%); Skipped: 15

	Responses	% of responses
It was cheaper	3	37.5
It was free	2	25
My regular vet did it		
A vet from Hobart Cat Centre did it		
It was able to be performed on the island	3	37.5
I am not prepared to de-sex my cat/s		
Other (please specify)	2 (not included)	See below

The single respondent whose cats are not de-sexed did not answer this question.

The 'Other' responses were not analysed. In 'Other' the two respondents commented that:

- his cats were both de-sexed; and
- it should be compulsory for all cats to be de-sexed on Bruny Island and as part of the introduction of the new program offer a special service to all Bruny cat owners.

Some respondents whose cats are de-sexed gave more than one answer.

**Of the respondents whose cats are already de-sexed most think providing some sort of financial assistance (making procedure cheaper or free) is most important. Having access to the procedure on the island is also somewhat important.**

**Q14 What support or assistance would be best to help cat owners de-sex their cats?**

Answered: 11 (50%); Skipped: 11

	Responses	% of responses
Offer de-sexing locally	3	23.1
Financial (free or cheap de-sexing)	10	76.9

Two respondents gave two separate responses to this question.

**The majority of respondents felt that financial support would best help cat owners de-sex their cats.**

**Q15 Have you ever had an unwanted litter of kittens?**

Answered: 21 (95%); Skipped: 1

	Households	%
Yes	3	14.3
No	18	85.7

**The majority of households have not had an unwanted litter of kittens.**

**Q16 If you have had an unwanted litter of kittens, what did you do with them?**

Answered: 7 (32%); Skipped: 15

	Responses	%
Found homes for them	1	11.1
Gave/sold them to a pet shop	1	11.1
Handed them over to a cat shelter	4	44.5
Kept them	3	33.3
Destroyed them myself		
Had them euthanised by a vet		
Other (please specify)		

Three households answered Yes to having had an unwanted litter of kittens (Question 15). Of these one household gave three responses to this question. It is likely that they have had 3 unwanted litters.

**Of those households which have had an unwanted litter the majority kept them.**

**Four households which have never had an unwanted litter also answered this question – if they had had an unwanted litter all four would have handed the kittens over to a cat shelter.**

**Q17 Is your cat/s:**

Answered: 22 (100%); Skipped: 0

	Households	%	# of cats	%
Kept indoors at all times	4	18.2	5	11.9
Kept indoors at night only	5	22.7	10	23.8
Enclosed in an outdoor cat-run	5	22.7	7	16.7
Allowed free access to indoors and outdoors	8	36.4	20	47.6
Outside only				

Some respondents said their cats had free access to indoors and outdoors but kept them in at night – these are included in ‘Kept indoors at night only’. One household said that their cats (10) are ‘allowed free access to indoors and outdoors and come in at night’. The cats are not actually contained so this response has been included in the ‘Allowed free access’ category.

**If it is assumed that cats kept in an outdoor cat-run are confined 24/7 then 28.6% or almost a third of cats are currently confined at all times.**

**Q18 If your cat is contained, what motivated and/or enabled you to contain your cat? (eg. health & safety of your cat/s, to protect wildlife, neighbours, support form family or vet, help with enclosure, could afford it, cat behaviour etc.)**

Answered: 13 (59%); Skipped: 9

	Responses	% of responses
Protect wildlife	10	47.7
Protect the cat/s	9	42.9
Reduce vet bills	1	4.7
Prevent FIV	1	4.7

Thirteen households which contain their cats completely, or at least some of the time, responded to this question, and most gave more than one response.

One household which does not contain their cats made the comment:

- our cats keep vermin at bay but also take starlings and the occasional lizard.

**Most respondents contain their cats to protect wildlife, closely followed by the desire to protect the cat/s.**

**Q19 If your cat/s is not contained, are there any particular reason/s why?**

Answered: 13 (59%); Skipped: 9

	Responses	% of responses	Total % Other
I am unable to afford it	1	5.3	
I haven't been able to do it yet	1	5.3	
Roaming is necessary for my cat's well-being	1	5.3	
Containment is not natural	5	26.3	
Containment is not compulsory	2	10.5	
My cat doesn't roam	5	26.3	
Too difficult (please explain)			
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>21</b>
She has never been contained	1	5.3	
The cat is old	2	10.5	
Pedro's safety is my concern	1	5.3	

Thirteen respondents who allow their cat/s free access, or contain it/them only some of the time, gave multiple responses to this question. One respondent said 'our cats stay on our property'. This response is included under 'My cat doesn't roam'.

Additional comments include:

- our cats are both 15 year old Burmese and take rats and mice; and
- she is now quite old and shows no sign of being a successful hunter.

Two respondents whose cats are contained chose 'Too difficult' and added the comment that their cats are contained. These responses were not included.

**The responses indicate that a large number of cat owners regard containment as unnatural and believe that their cats do not roam.**

The next largest groups do not contain their cat/s because it is not compulsory or because they are old. Any education programme might emphasise that older cats are safer if they are contained.

**Q20 If you do not contain your cat/s, would you if:**

Answered: 18 (82%); Skipped: 4

	Responses	%
You had access to cheap materials and/or assistance to build an outdoor enclosure	4	28.6
You had technical advice on building an enclosure, such as DIY plans, and a checklist for what a happy cat needs when contained	1	7.1
You had advice on helping your cat's adjustment to containment from an expert such as a vet or animal behaviourist		
You got a new cat/kitten		
Compulsory cat containment was phased in over several years	5	35.7
You had support (e.g. From other cat owners to share stories and provide support)		
I am not prepared to contain my cat/s	3	21.5
Other (please specify)	4 (not included)	See below
Will consider containment in the future	1	7.1

Fourteen analysed responses in this table are from owners who allow their cats to roam at least some of the time. The respondent who selected the 'technical advice' option contains their cat, but may be seeking further assistance, so the response was included in the analysis. The respondents who selected 'Other' all contain their cats and their responses were not included in the analysis.

**The responses indicate that phased in compulsory cat containment may be the most effective strategy in changing behaviour regarding containment.**

**Q21 What would be your preference to contain cat/s?**

Answered: 20 (91%); Skipped: 2

	Responses	%
Cat owners to be required to keep their cats within their house and/or yard	11	64.7
Cat owners would be required to keep cats within their property, regardless of property size or the presence of wildlife	6	35.3
Other (please specify)	4 (not included)	See below

Two households did not respond to this question. One household entered both responses. Three of the households who put 'Other' actually qualified their answers to show that their preference is to 'keep cats within their house and/or yard' so that is where their responses have been entered.

The remaining four 'Other' responses were:

- unsure;
- if cat is not being a nuisance it is hard to contain it within the yard; and
- do not agree with any form of containment (2).

These four responses have not been included in the analysis.

**Of the respondents who favour some form of containment the majority prefer containment within the house and/or yard.**

**Q22 Do you have a story you would like to tell us about cat containment? Your story can help us and others to become more informed about the practicalities, challenges and benefits of containing cats and will allow us to develop effective awareness campaigns. We might like to share your story on social media but you can choose to be anonymous.**

Answered: 19 (86%); Skipped: 3

**Seven households have a story to tell, or some comment to make regarding cat management and one is thinking about it. Eleven do not wish to contribute a story and three did not respond.**

**Q23 If you have more than two or three cats - is there any particular reason/s why?**

Answered: 6 (27%); Skipped: 16

	Responses	%
Cat/s had kittens and the cats accumulated	2	50
I take in stray or unwanted cats	1	25
Cats have been dumped at my property	1	25
There are no limits		
I haven't been able to get rid of them		
Too difficult (please explain)	1 (not included)	See below
Other (please specify)	2 (not included)	See below

Sixteen households (all with less than three cats) did not respond.

Three households with less than three cats made some comments which do not relate directly to the question. They are:

- I still only have two cats;
- we have not seen ferals on our property. We have planted 3000 trees. We want to work on wildlife surveys. We have an Eagle nest that is now fully protected and we want to ensure the prosperity of the property into the future; and
- I have no intention of owning more than one cat.

Of the three households that have more than two cats one gave two responses.

**The number of responses relevant to the question are too few to reasonably analyse.**

**Q24 Would you be prepared to limit the number of cats you kept to:**

Answered: 17 (77%); Skipped: 5

	Responses	% of responses	Total % Other
Two	10	58.8	
Three	2	11.8	
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>29.4</b>
Zero	1	5.9	
One	3	17.6	
More than three	1	5.9	

One of the 'Other' responses actually specified two cats so that has been moved to the 'Two' response column. Three of the 'Other' responses specified one cat only. The final 'Other' response specified three or four cats.

**Most respondents feel that households on Bruny Island should have no more than two cats each and a reasonable number feel that the limit should be one only.**

**Q25 If you own more than two or three cats, would you be prepared to limit the number if:**

Answered: 5 (23%); Skipped: 17

	Responses	%
The extra cats you had could be re-homed	1	33.3
You didn't replace the cat after it dies	1	33.3
You were encouraged or supported (including by family members, other cat owners, Council etc.)		
I am not prepared to limit the number of cats I keep	1	33.3
Other (please specify)		

Three respondents with less than three cats made the following comments:

- what's too many cats?;
- I still only have two cats; and

- you didn't replace the cats.

Seventeen households, including the one with ten cats, did not respond. One household with three cats is not prepared to limit the number of cats kept. The household with five cats made the other two responses.

**The sample is too small to make any useful analysis.**

**Q26 What support or assistance would be best to help cat owners limit the number of cats they keep?**

Answered: 14 (64%); Skipped: 8

	Responses	%
Legislation, including registration	5	33.3
Financial	5	33.3
Education	2	13.3
Access to a vet on the Island	1	6.7
Building assistance and advice	1	6.7
Help from the cat home	1	6.7

All the responses fitted into these categories except for a general comment which was:

- make sure they're de-sexed.

Some households gave more than one response and eight households did not respond.

**Most respondents felt that legislation, including registration, and some financial assistance would best help owners limit the number of cats they keep.**

**Q27 Would you be prepared to identify your cat/s with a collar and tag, specifying your address and/or phone number?**

Answered: 22 (100%); Skipped: 0

	Responses	%	Total % No
Yes	13	59.1	
Unsure	1	4.5	
<b>No (please specify)</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>36.3</b>
Collars are dangerous	3	13.6	
Collars are unnecessary if cat is contained	4	18.2	
Cat didn't like the collar	1	4.5	

One respondent answered No to this question but then stated that the cat wears a collar so this contradictory response was not included.

Three of the respondents that said No felt that collars are dangerous and four said that they are unnecessary as the cats are contained. One household gave both of these responses. The remaining No respondent said the cat didn't like the collar. Two of the respondents mentioned that wearing a collar might be OK if they were introduced when the cat was young. The respondent who was Unsure felt that the collar might be dangerous.

The majority of households are prepared to use a collar and tag on their cats. Of those that disagree, most feel that they are unnecessary if the cat is contained.

**Q28 Do you support annual cat registration?**

Answered: 22 (100%); Skipped: 0

	Households	%	Total % No
Yes	15	68.2	
<b>No (please specify)</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>31.8</b>
What benefit?	5	22.8	
Too expensive	1	4.5	
Annual vs one-off	1	4.5	

One respondent made the comment ‘What would I get for it?’ I put this with the No responses as this was a common comment made by those against registration.

Of the No respondents five asked what the benefits would be, one said that the cat was already too expensive and one commented:

- It will be likely for people to register their cats if it is annual and not just a once off.

**The majority of households support cat registration. Support for registration may be even greater if an education program included the benefits of registration.**

**Q29 How much would you be prepared to pay for annual cat registration?**

Answered: 21 (95%); Skipped: 1

	Households	%	Total % Other
\$15 per year	11	52.4	
\$30 per year	1	4.8	
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>42.8</b>
Zero	2	9.5	
\$5 per year	2	9.5	
Same as dog registration	1	4.8	
Pensioner rate	1	4.8	
An amount used to help people with cat management	3	14.2	

Of the respondents who chose ‘Other’ two were not prepared to pay anything, two were prepared to pay \$5, one would pay as much as dog registration and one requested a pensioner rate.

Three did not specify an amount but did say that the fee should be used to pay to help people de-sex or contain their cats and to cover the administration of registration.

**The majority of households agree to pay for annual cat registration. A little over half of households are willing to pay \$15 for registration. Some households would like to see any money raised used for assisting people with cat management.**

**Q30 Do you ever feed stray cats?**

Answered: 22 (100%); Skipped: 0

	Households	%
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Yes	2	9
No	20	91

**The majority of households do not feed stray cats.**

**Q31 If you do feed stray cats, please could you explain why?**

Answered: 2 (9%); Skipped: 20

**One 'Yes' respondent found out that the 'stray' was just a visitor who liked eating away from home. The other respondent maintains that it is cruel not to feed strays when other cats are eating around them.**

**Q32 What assistance or information do you think would best help cat owners and the public to stop feeding stray cats?**

Answered: 16 (73%); Skipped: 6

	Responses	%
Education	9	60
Eradicate feral cats	1	6.7
Manage feral cats	4	26.6
By-laws and penalties	1	6.7

One respondent commented that people should know not to feed them.

Four respondents want to manage feral cats and made the following comments:

- humanely remove them and possibly de-sex them and return them to the bush so they can die out naturally;
- catch them and rehabilitate them;
- trap and relocate them; and
- provide help to catch them (but did not specify what would happen after that).

**The majority of respondents believe that education will result in less people feeding stray cats. A reasonable number of respondents suggested managing the stray cats.**

**Q33 How would you like to be notified about this issue in the future?**

Answered: 20 (91%); Skipped: 2

	Responses	%
Post	2	7.2
Phone	3	10.7
Email	16	57.1
Bruny News	6	21.4
Social media (Council's Facebook page etc.)	1	3.6
Other (please specify)		

Several respondents gave multiple answers to this question. One respondent put 'Other' but then asked to be contacted by phone.

**Most respondents prefer to be contacted by email.**