

# HOMELESS CATS

## Understanding the issues

Hundreds of homeless cats are impounded in animal shelters each year. Sadly, a large number of these cats are euthanised as there are not enough people to adopt them.

Homeless and feral cats can also cause a nuisance by killing wildlife, spraying, fighting and making noise.

This flyer provides important information about dealing with homeless cats.

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 [@CityofMarion](https://twitter.com/CityofMarion)

 [youtube.com/CityofMarion](https://youtube.com/CityofMarion)

Visit the following websites for information about caring for your cat:

RSPCA  
[rspcasa.asn.au](https://rspcasa.asn.au)

Dog and Cat Management Board  
[dogandcatboard.com.au](https://dogandcatboard.com.au)

City of Marion  
[marion.sa.gov.au](https://marion.sa.gov.au)

City of Marion  
PO Box 21, Oaklands Park, SA 5046  
245 Sturt Road Sturt SA 5047  
Phone: (08) 8375 6600  
Fax: (08) 8375 6699  
[marion.sa.gov.au](https://marion.sa.gov.au)

## What to do if you have a homeless cat coming around for food?

If a cat is identified by a collar and ID tag, carefully try to determine who the owner is and advise them. It is against the law to trap an identified cat.

If you believe a cat is unowned a trap can be hired from the City of Marion or the RSPCA. The City of Marion does not collect trapped cats but you can take it to an animal shelter, including the RSPCA, or a vet.

It is against the law to keep a cat trapped in a cage for longer than 24 hours and penalties may apply.

If you are planning to use a cat trap, please contact the City of Marion Customer Service Centre on 8375 6600 for information on how to do it humanely.

More information on cat traps is online at [rspcasa.asn.au](http://rspcasa.asn.au) and [marion.sa.gov.au](http://marion.sa.gov.au)



## Tips for dealing with nuisance cats

If you are experiencing a cat problem such as spraying, cat fights and straying cats, there are several options available.

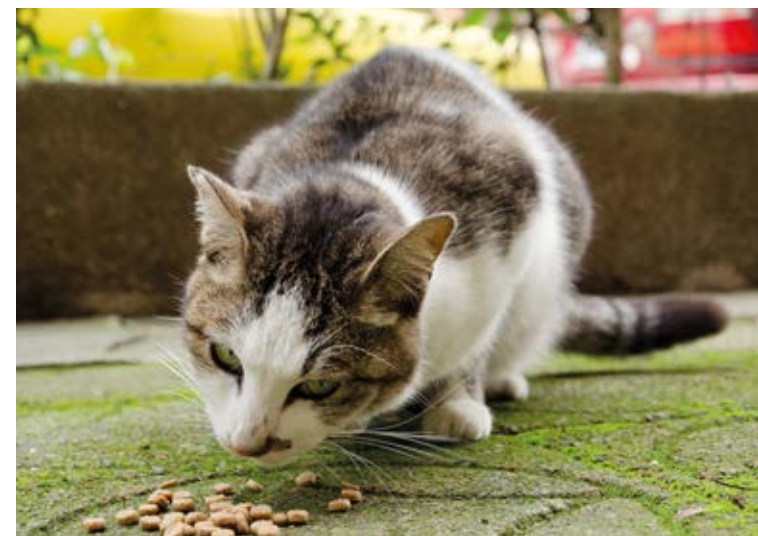
### Approach the owner

People may not be aware their cat is causing a problem. If you know the cat owner, approach them in a friendly manner and try to find an amicable solution.

### Deterrents

There are a range of deterrents to discourage cats from entering your property, including:

- **Deterrents** - Sprinkle Cayenne pepper around the problem areas. You can also sprinkle mustard, eucalyptus oil, vinegar, citrus peel, cloudy ammonia or citronella oil, as cats don't like the smell
- **Vaseline** - Smearing Vaseline on the fence and post tops will deter cats as they cannot grip the greasy surface
- **Chicken wire** - Fences can be modified by attaching floppy chicken wire, angled slightly inwards, making it difficult for cats to balance
- **Rue** - Planting this herb near their toileting area will deter them from returning
- **Water your garden** - If a cat digs in a certain area of your garden at night, water this section just before dark so that it will be wet overnight as cats generally don't like to have wet, muddy feet.



### You can help by not feeding a cat that is not your own

Although it can be hard to ignore a homeless and hungry cat, feeding it can contribute to the wider problem and encourage it to breed.

A female cat and her kittens can produce about 40 kittens in 12 months.