

## Background information – cat management policy making, metrics, and data collection

When implementing cat management processes or committing resources to new approaches to cat management, councils should be monitoring relevant metrics to assess the efficacy, efficiency and other impacts of changes made. This will ensure that limited resources are used most effectively and help councils to develop good data to inform future changes to animal management processes in their municipality.

The following are suggestions for information that would be useful to collect, and suggestions for metrics that may be used to collect useable data around this information.

It is recommended that this document is used with the **AIAM Pre-Cat Management Legislation data collection document** and the **AIAM Sample Data Spreadsheet**.

- **Information about population of free-roaming cats in municipality.** This should include the total number of impounded cats per time period, the number of impounded cats who have ID (e.g., microchip or tag) or signs of ownership (e.g., desexing, flea collar), and the number of cats who were euthanised on intake for presenting as unsocialised and unable to be handled.
- **Effect of curfew on community perception of effectiveness of council in managing cats within community.** This should include the number of complaints received about cats within the time period, as well as an assessment of community satisfaction with LG cat management (e.g. from a consultation process such as a community survey or formal feedback received by council outside of the complaints process). Both are necessary to gauge the effect of drawing people's attention to roaming cats as an issue vs. the effect of the curfew itself, hopefully resulting in fewer owned cats free roaming vs. the influence of being seen to be doing *something* on public perception of council cat management. It's possible that several surveys may need to be undertaken to gain this information.
- **Information about resources dedicated to enforcement of curfew, cat trapping, and other activities related to implementing the curfew, such as door knocking or education campaigns.** This should include both staff time for completing the activities and funding used to provide curfew-related services, including trapping, impoundment, and the management of trapped cats.
- **Outcomes for cats entering shelter/pound system.** This should include basic information on movement of impounded cats through the pound and shelter system, such as the number of cats rehomed vs. reclaimed vs. transferred to partners vs. euthanised, the length of stay for cats – ideally by age class of the cats (kittens < 6mths vs adults >6mths for example).

- **Impact of cat activity on wildlife populations within the LGA.** What this is will entirely depend on what wildlife conservation and population monitoring activities occur within the municipality, however, information from environmental groups, Friends groups, the environment team within council, or the like, may be useful here. We aim to encourage AMOs and Local Laws departments to liaise with other teams within council to find out what local wildlife data is currently collected and start sharing relevant data between them (or other groups in their communities who monitor cats/cat activity).