

# Feral cat trapping on KI



## VISION

*Kangaroo Island is free of feral cats*

## Cat trapping hints and protocols

### Where to set a trap?

- » Place the trap where you have sighted a cat, or think a cat might live e.g. haystack, old sheds, car bodies, grain silos, drains and vegetation corridors.
- » Don't put the trap within sight of the road and don't let others see you setting the trap in case of theft.
- » Traps can be hard to see so ensure you can find it again by using a marker, or GPS or by drawing a map.
- » Ensure the trap is in working order and the door closes correctly when triggered. Sometimes the latch jams or grass stops the door closing completely: trial it before walking away.
- » Set the trap on steady/ flat ground and cover it with a hessian bag or similar.
- » Set traps in a sheltered location (out of the sun, wind and rain).
- » If ants are a problem, move the trap to another location.
- » Trapping should be avoided in October/ November where possible to avoid trapping lactating females.
- » Feral cats need to be destroyed humanely. The most humane method is a single shot to the head whilst the animal is still in the cage.
- » Drowning is inhumane and breaches the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*.

### What bait do I use?

- » Cats don't favour one bait, try what they are eating in the area (e.g. if on the coast try fish) or what is easy and cheap for you e.g. table scraps, fish, crab shells, tinned cat food or chicken wings.
- » Change bait at least every three days.
- » You may want to use gloves to keep human smell away.
- » Suspend the bait to keep it free of ants and to prevent the floor plate from jamming.

### When do I check my trap?

- » Check traps frequently every morning, within two hours of dawn. Close traps during the day to prevent goannas etc. being caught in the trap and re-set in the evening.
- » If a non-target native animal is trapped, release it immediately.

### Tips for identifying domestic and feral cats

1. If UNSURE contact the Kangaroo Island Council General Inspector.
2. Feral cats are generally more aggressive but this is not always the case.

Under KI Council by-laws, domestic cats **MUST** have a microchip, but currently not all cat owners are compliant.

## What do I do when I catch a cat?

- » If the cat is domestic or captured within one kilometre of a residence, contact your KI Council General Inspector to assist with checking if the cat is registered and micro-chipped on (08) 8553 4500.
- » If the cat is more than one kilometre from a residence and identified as feral, the cat can be destroyed humanely (see below). If needed contact your KI Council General Inspector for assistance.
- » Feral cats are extremely aggressive when caught.
- » Do not attempt to remove the cat from the trap.
- » Secure the door of the trap with a zip tie, string and/or wire.
- » Prior to and while euthanising, transporting, or waiting for assistance, cover the trap with something dark (blanket, towel, hessian bag or shade-cloth) to prevent the cat stressing.



## Hire of cat trap

Trap number: .....

### Conditions of hire

1. Cat traps can be hired for a period of up to two months, or longer if negotiated, with a \$50 deposit which will be refunded on return of the cat trap in its original condition.
2. Traps must be returned by the due date unless other arrangements are made.
3. Damage to the trap during the hire period will be fixed at the hirer's cost.
4. If a domestic cat is caught the hirer MUST contact the Kangaroo Island Council General Inspector (8553 4500).
5. **You MUST be sure that the cat has not had a microchip implanted before humane destruction.** Feral cats need to be destroyed humanely. The most humane method is a single shot to the head whilst the animal is still in the cage.

### Signature

The below signed accepts full responsibility for any direct or implied liability that may occur as a result of engaging in any cat trapping activity with the hired trap and commits to humane disposal of any feral cat captured.

I, .....

Of .....

.....

Phone .....

I have read the conditions of hire for the cat trap and agree to the conditions of hire. I discharge all other people and/or organisations of any responsibility for any litigation resulting from the use of the borrowed cat trap whilst in my possession.

Period of hire ..... to .....

Signed .....

Date returned .....

Signed .....

## Further information and contacts

### Kangaroo Island Council

- » General Inspector
- » Contact for trapped cats
- » Domestic cat regulations

43 Dauncey Street  
Kingscote SA 5223

Ph: (08) 8553 4500 at any time

[www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au](http://www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au)

### Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

- » Cat trap hire
- » Feral animal advice

35 Dauncey Street  
Kingscote SA 5223

Ph: (08) 8553 2476

Email: [ki.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au](mailto:ki.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au)

[www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/home](http://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ki/home)

### To record feral cat activity:

[www.feralcatscan.org.au](http://www.feralcatscan.org.au)

### For tools for pest management:

[www.pestsmart.org.au](http://www.pestsmart.org.au)