

# Wandering cats

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What to do if you have  
a wandering cat entering  
your property



MORNINGTON  
PENINSULA  
*Shire*

# What to do?

What are your options for dealing with a wandering or trespassing cat when it enters your property?

1

**First you need to establish whether the cat has an owner or if it is a stray/ownerless cat.**

You might like to observe the cat and try to establish where it resides or make enquiries with your neighbours to help identify where the cat comes from.

**Hint:** Owned cats are usually friendly.

Stray cats that are ownerless tend to be timid and afraid of human interaction and are often unapproachable.

When trapped, they can become aggressive.

2

**If you find the cat's owner, you may:**

- (a) Approach the cat's owner and explain the problem.  
The owner may not be aware of the situation; or
- (b) If the owner is unapproachable or you are not comfortable approaching them, try placing the "Dear Neighbour" letter (found on page 5 of this booklet) into their letter box.

All impounded cats are scanned for a microchip in an attempt to identify and contact the owner. If your cat is lost, you can check the Shire website at [mornpen.vic.gov.au/lostpets](https://mornpen.vic.gov.au/lostpets)

or contact the

**Mornington Peninsula Shire  
Community Animal Shelter & Pound**

130 Watt Road, Mornington 3931

📞 1300 850 600

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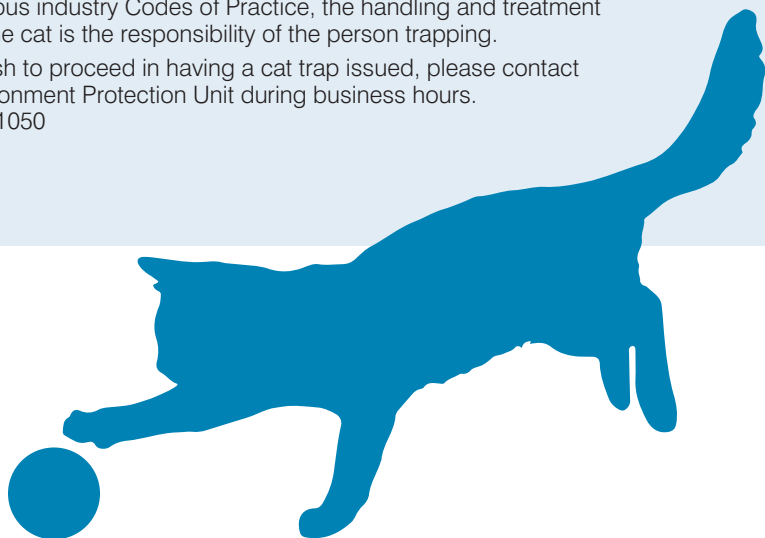
If these options do not resolve your concern, or you cannot find the cat's owner, you may contact the Environment Protection Unit during business hours to have an officer assisted use of a cat trap.

**Conditions of an officer assisted cat trap include:**

- The Cat Trap use is for a 2-week period to assist you in containing the cat.
- An Officer will contact you to arrange delivery of the trap. It is a requirement that someone be home to collect the trap from the Officer at time of delivery to sign the Cat Trap Agreement and that someone be there when the officer returns to collect the cat trap.
- You may only set the trap from Sunday evening to Thursday evening.
- There is no collection service available on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays and the trap must not be used.
- Under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* and various industry Codes of Practice, the handling and treatment of the cat is the responsibility of the person trapping.

If you wish to proceed in having a cat trap issued, please contact the Environment Protection Unit during business hours.

☎ 5950 1050





**Dear neighbour**

Recently a cat with the following description has been wandering into my property.

**Description of cat:**

If this cat belongs to your household, it would be appreciated if you could please contain the cat to your property and not allow it to trespass or wander into surrounding properties.

As you may be aware Mornington Peninsula Shire Council requires owners to contain cats at all times. Wandering / trespassing cats can be trapped and handed over to Council.

I would appreciate your co-operation in resolving this issue.

Additional information provided by Council is printed on the back of this letter and may be of assistance to you.

Thank you,

**Your neighbour**



# Information about wandering cats

## The domestic cat in our community

Cats are highly valued pets in Australia; around 23% of households own them. They adapt well to our life styles, and can provide great companionship for people. However, problems can occur if cats are allowed to roam outdoors, and to trespass onto private property especially between dusk & dawn.

## Cat curfew

Mornington Peninsula Shire has a cat curfew. The curfew requires cats to be confined to the owner's premises 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The curfew is not about keeping your cat inside your house but confining your cat to your property boundary. Your cat can be trapped if a resident objects to the cat being on their property. If your cat is trapped outside your property by a member of the public or a Council Officer, the Officer will attempt to reunite your cat with you provided the cat is currently registered and microchipped.

For more information on Mornington Peninsula Shire's Cat Curfew and the best way to confine your cat to your property, visit [mornpen.vic.gov.au/wanderingcats](https://mornpen.vic.gov.au/wanderingcats)

## Did you know...

- Approximately 80% of accidents involving cats happen at night.
- Roaming cats can get hit by cars, injured in fights, infected with diseases (e.g. feline AIDS) or become disorientated and not find their way home.
- Cats kept inside generally live at least three times longer than cats allowed to roam.
- The hours between dusk and dawn are also when cats are most likely to kill native wildlife; even well-fed cats will hunt.
- Cats can annoy neighbours by spraying, fighting, yowling and digging in gardens.
- Owners of cats found trespassing more than once, may receive an infringement.
- The handling and trapping of cats must be undertaken according to the *Domestic Animal Act 1994* and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*.

**Remember: if it is your cat,  
it is your responsibility.**



