

## CAT TRAPS GUIDE

If it becomes necessary to trap a cat then the following procedures should be carefully followed to ensure the cat is treated humanely.

Any ill-treatment of cats may be an offence under the Animal Welfare Act and be subject to prosecution.

1. Use only approved cage traps. **Do not** use leg-hold or body-grip traps or snares.
2. Ensure the cage is suitably covered to provide any contained cats with protection from the elements.
3. Ensure the cage is regularly checked (at least twice per day) so that caught cats are not caged for extended periods.
4. Ensure that any caught cats are provided with sufficient food and water. If the cat is sick or injured, seek veterinary treatment.
5. Any lactating cat caught in a trap should be released, unless the kittens can also be located and removed as well.
6. Check any caught cats for identification and contact the owner.

Note: Some cats may be identified with a microchip; which can only be read with a scanner - available at most vets and Council / Shire Rangers.

7. If the cat is not identified endeavour to locate the owner by doorknocking / letterbox drops in your local area.
8. If the owner cannot be located then endeavour to rehome the cat (eg. advertise, contact Cat Haven, contact RSPCA, check your local vet).
9. **Do not** relocate the cat and release in the bush or elsewhere. Abandonment is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act.
10. In the event the cat needs to be destroyed then take it to your local vet for humane euthanasia.

**Do not** destroy the cat yourself - as techniques such as striking, gassing, poisoning and drowning are unacceptable and may constitute an offence under the Animal Welfare Act.

If in doubt - contact the RSPCA for further advice, on 08-9209 9300.