

Monday, 19 May 2014

Good cats play at home

Encouraging cat owners to keep their pets safe at home is at the centre of a new campaign by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Chair of the Dog and Cat Management Board Chair Jan Connolly said an increasing number of cat owners were keeping their cats indoors or having enclosures built for them.

“Cats are perfectly happy living inside or using outdoor enclosures,” Ms Connolly said.

“There is no need for them to roam and there are many benefits to securing them on your property. They are less likely to get injured in fights with others cats, catch diseases from other cats or get hit by cars.

“From a community point of view, being a responsible cat owner reduces neighbourhood disputes and nuisance cat issue complaints to local councils.

“We would love to see people keeping their cats off the streets and encouraging their friends and families to do the same.”

The board is also urging people to desex and microchip their cats.

“Now is the perfect time to have your cat desexed, before the breeding season,” Ms Connolly said.

“Too many kittens are born every year and there are just not enough homes for all of them.

“Owners won’t contribute to the problem if they desex their cats. Cats that are allowed outside have even an greater risk of producing unwanted litters.”

In March 2014, the board released a template and guidelines to help local governments develop their own cat by-laws. Since then, many councils have been working on by-laws for mandatory desexing and microchipping.

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