

SHIRE OF SERPENTINE JARRAHDAL

PROPOSED CAT LOCAL LAW 2023

CAT ACT 2011

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995

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SHIRE OF SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE

CAT LOCAL LAW 2023

Under the powers conferred by the *Cat Act 2011*, the *Local Government Act 1995* and by all other powers enabling it, the Council of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale resolved on 16 October 2023 to make the following local law.

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1.1 Citation

This local law may be cited as the *Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Cat Local Law 2023*.

1.2 Commencement

This local law comes into operation 14 days after the date of its publication in the *Government Gazette*.

1.3 Application

This local law applies throughout the district.

1.4 Repeal

The *Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Kennel and Cattery Local Law* published in the *Government Gazette* on 13 February 2004 is repealed.

1.5 Definitions and Interpretation

In this local law unless the context otherwise requires:

Act means the *Cat Act 2011*;

Animal Establishment means premises used for the breeding, boarding, training or caring of animals for commercial purposes but does not include animal husbandry - intensive or veterinary centre;

applicant means the occupier of the premises who makes an application for a permit under this local law;

authorised person means a person authorised by the local government, under section 9.10 of the *Local Government Act 1995* to perform the functions conferred on an authorised person under this local law;

cat means an animal of the species *felis catus* or a hybrid of that species;

cat enclosure means an enclosure designed and built in close proximity to a dwelling to contain a cat, or cats, and to secure and prevent the cat or cats from roaming at large, unsecured and uncontained;

Cat Haven means Cat Welfare Society Inc., trading as “Cat Haven”;

cat management facility means –

- (a) a facility operated by a local government that is, or may be, used for keeping cats;
- (b) a facility for keeping cats that is operated by a person or body prescribed; or
- (c) a facility for keeping cats that is operated by a person or body approved in writing by a local government;

cat prohibited area means an area identified in the table contained in Schedule 3 as being ‘Prohibited’ under the fourth column of the table entitled ‘Status’;

cattery means any premises where cats are kept, boarded, housed or trained temporarily for profit, and where the occupier of the premises is not the ordinary owner of the cats, or the keeping of more than six (6) cats;

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the local government;

district means the district of the local government;

effective control in relation to a cat means any of the following methods—

- (a) held by a person who is capable of controlling the cat;
- (b) securely tethered;
- (c) secured in a cage; or
- (d) any other means of preventing escape;

foster carer means a person who has a cat or cats placed in their care by Cat Haven, RSPCA, SAFE or other bona fide cat rescue group as a non-permanent arrangement;

grouped dwelling as defined by the Residential Design Codes;

local government means the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale;

local planning scheme means a local planning scheme of the local government made by it under the *Planning and Development Act 2005* and its antecedents;

multiple dwelling as defined by the Residential Design Codes;

nuisance means –

- (a) an activity or condition which is harmful or annoying and which gives rise to legal liability in the tort of public or private nuisance at law;
- (b) an unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of a person of his or her ownership or occupation of land; or
- (c) interference which causes material damage to land or other property on the land affected by the interference;

owner has the meaning given to it in the Act;

permit means a permit issued by the local government under Part 3;

permit holder means a person who holds a valid permit under Part 3;

premises includes the following:

- (a) land (whether or not vacant);

- (b) the whole or part of a building or structure (whether of a permanent or temporary nature); and
- (c) a vehicle;

RSPCA means the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Inc) of Western Australia;

SAFE means any of the following:

- (a) Saving Animals from Euthanasia Incorporated (ABN 59 337 498 934);
- (b) S.A.F.E. Hedland Inc (ABN 23 865 056 223);
- (c) Saving Animals from Euthanasia Busselton Inc (ABN 21 692 235 008);

Schedule means a schedule to this local law; and

Veterinarian means a registered veterinary surgeon as defined in the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960* section 2.

PART 2 – CONTROL OF CATS

2.1 Cat not to be a nuisance

- (1) An owner shall not allow a cat to be or create a nuisance.
- (2) Where in the opinion of an authorised person, a cat is creating a nuisance, the local government may give a cat control notice to the owner of the cat requiring that person to abate the nuisance.
- (3) When a nuisance has occurred and a notice to abate the nuisance is given, the notice remains in force for the period specified by the local government in the notice which shall not exceed 28 days.
- (4) A person given a notice to abate the nuisance shall comply with the notice within the period specified in the notice.
- (5) A cat control notice under clause 2.1(2) shall be in the form of Schedule 1, Form 3 of the Cat Regulations 2012.

2.2 Cat prohibited areas

- (1) A cat shall not be in a cat prohibited area at any time, whether or not under effective control.

PART 3—PERMITS FOR KEEPING CATS

3.1 Interpretation

In this Part, and for the purposes of applying the definition of ‘cattery’, *cat* does not include a cat less than six (6) months old.

3.2 Cats for which a permit is required

- (1) Subject to subclause (2) a person is required to have a permit to –

- (a) keep more than two (2) cats, but not more than six (6) on any premises; or
 - (b) use any premises as a cattery or cat management facility.
- (2) A permit is not required under subclause (1) if the premises concerned are –
- (a) a refuge of the RSPCA or any other body prescribed in regulation 4 of the *Cat Regulations 2012*;
 - (b) a cat management facility which has been approved by the local government; or
 - (c) a veterinary surgery.
 - (d) a cat management facility operated by a local government

3.3 Application for permit

- (1) An application for a permit under clause 3.2 shall be –
- (a) made in writing by an occupier of the premises in relation to those premises;
 - (b) in a form approved by the local government, describing and specifying the number of cats to be kept on the premises;
 - (c) accompanied by a brief reason and justification for the request;
 - (d) accompanied by the plans of the premises to which the application relates in the form determined by the local government from time to time;
 - (e) accompanied by the consent in writing of the owner of the premises where the occupier is not the owner of the premises to which the application relates; and
 - (f) accompanied by the application fee for the permit determined by the local government from time to time.
- (2) Shire may exempt payment of a permit detailed in 3.3(1)(f) where applicant is a –
- (a) registered cat breeder; or
 - (b) bona fide cat foster carer; or
 - (c) cattery applicant.

3.4 Refusal to determine application

The local government may refuse to determine an application for a permit if it is not made in accordance with clause 3.3.

3.5 Factors relevant to the determination of application

- (1) In determining an application for a permit, the local government may have regard to –
- (a) the reasons and justification provided for the request;
 - (b) the physical suitability of the premises for the proposed use;
 - (c) the suitability of the zoning of the premises under any local planning scheme which applies to the premises for the proposed use;

- (d) the environmental sensitivity and general nature of the location, surrounding the premises for the proposed use;
 - (e) the structural suitability of any enclosure in which any cat is to be kept;
 - (f) the likelihood of a cat causing nuisance, inconvenience, or annoyance to the occupiers of adjoining land;
 - (g) the likely effect on the amenity of the surrounding area of the proposed use;
 - (h) the likely effect on the local environment including any pollution or other environmental damage, which may be caused by the use;
 - (i) any submissions received under subclause (2) within the time specified in subclause (2); and
 - (j) such other factors which the local government may consider to be relevant in the circumstances of the particular case.
- (2) The local government may require an applicant to –
- (a) consult with nearby landowners; or
 - (b) advise nearby landowners that they may make submissions to the local government on the application for a permit within 14 days of receiving that advice, before determining the application for the permit.
- (3) The local government may specify the extent of consultation with nearby residents, as specified in subclause 3.5(2)(a) and may specify which properties should be consulted.

3.6 Decision on application

- (1) The local government may—
- (a) approve an application for a permit as it was submitted, in which case it shall approve it subject to the conditions in clause 3.7 and may approve it subject to any other conditions it sees fit;
 - (b) approve an application but specify an alternative number of cats permitted to be housed at the address; or
 - (c) refuse to approve an application for a permit.
- (2) If the local government approves an application under subclause (1), then it shall issue a permit to the applicant in the form determined by the CEO.
- (3) If the local government refuses to approve an application under subclause (1), then it shall advise the applicant accordingly in writing.

3.7 Conditions

- (1) Every permit is issued subject to the following conditions:
- (a) each cat kept on the premises to which the permit relates shall comply with the requirements of the Act, and conditions detailed within this Local Law;
 - (b) each cat shall be contained on the premises unless under the effective control of a person;

- (c) the permit holder will provide adequate space for the exercise of the cats;
 - (d) the premises shall be maintained in good order and in a clean and sanitary condition; and
 - (e) those conditions contained in Schedule 1.
- (2) In addition to the conditions in subclause (1) of this clause, a permit may be issued subject to other conditions, as the local government considers appropriate.

3.8 Compliance with conditions of permit

A permit holder shall comply with each condition of a permit.

3.9 Duration of a permit

Unless otherwise specified in a condition on a permit, a permit commences on the date of issue and expires:

- (a) if it is revoked; or
- (b) if the permit holder ceases to reside at the premises to which the permit relates.

3.10 Revocation

The local government may revoke a permit if the permit holder fails to observe any provision of this local law or a condition of a permit.

3.11 Permit not transferable

A permit is not transferable either in relation to the permit holder or the premises.

3.12 Permit to be kept at premises and available for view

- (1) A permit issued by the local government shall be kept at the premises to which it applies and shall be provided to an authorised person on demand.
- (2) In the case of a cattery or cat management facility, the permit shall be displayed in a prominent place within the premises.

PART 4 – MISCELLANEOUS

4.1 Giving of an infringement notice

- (1) A notice given under this local law may be given to a person –
 - (a) personally;
 - (b) by postal mail addressed to the person; or

- (c) by leaving it for the person at her or his address.

PART 5 – OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS

5.1 Objections and appeal rights

Any person who is aggrieved by the conditions imposed in relation to a permit, the revocation of a permit, or by the refusal of the local government to grant a permit, may object or appeal against the decision under Division 1 of Part 9 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

PART 6 – OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

6.1 Offences

- (1) Any person who fails to do anything required or directed to be done under this local law, or who does anything which under this local law that person is prohibited from doing, commits an offence.
- (2) Unless otherwise specified, any person who commits an offence under this local law is liable on conviction, to a penalty not exceeding \$5,000 and if the offence is of a continuing nature, to a further penalty not exceeding a fine of \$500 in respect of each day or part of a day during which the offence has continued.

6.2 Prescribed offences

- (1) An offence against a clause specified in Schedule 2 is a prescribed offence for the purposes of section 63 of the Act.
- (2) The amount of the modified penalty for a prescribed offence is that specified adjacent to the item in Schedule 2.

6.3 Forms

- (1) The issue of infringement notices, their withdrawal and the payment of modified penalties are dealt with in Division 4 of Part 4 of the Act.
- (2) An infringement notice in respect of an offence against this local law may be given under section 62 of the Act and is to be in the form of Schedule 1, Form 6 of the *Cat Regulations 2012*.
- (3) A notice sent under section 65 of the Act withdrawing an infringement notice is to be in the form of Schedule 1, Form 7 of the *Cat Regulations 2012*.

Schedule 1

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO PARTICULAR PERMITS

[Clause 3.7]

A. Permit to keep more than two (2) cats

Additional conditions –

- (1) In the case of a grouped dwelling where there is no suitable dividing fence or multiple dwellings on the same level, the written consent to the application for a permit of the occupier of the adjoining dwellings has been obtained.
- (2) Without the consent of the local government, the permit holder will not substitute or replace any cat that is the subject of a permit once that cat -
 - (a) dies; or
 - (b) is permanently removed from the premises.
- (3) Approved breeders are subject to limitation on the considered number of unsterilised cats on a property. Where an approved single dwelling exists, Land zoned -
 - (a) Residential, Urban Development, Neighbourhood Centre, District Centre, Mixed Use and Rural Townsite will allow a maximum of three unsterilised cats to be considered.
 - (b) Rural Residential, Rural and Rural Smallholdings where the lot size is less than two hectares will allow a maximum of four unsterilised cats to be considered.
 - (c) Rural Residential, Rural and Rural Smallholdings where the lot size is at least two hectares will allow a maximum of six unsterilised cats to be considered.
 - (d) The keeping of cats as per schedule 1 A(3)(a), A(3)(b) or A(3)(a) will be considered as a home business.

B. Permit to use premises as a cattery or cat management facility

Additional conditions will include –

- (1) All building enclosures must be structurally sound, have impervious flooring, be well lit and ventilated and otherwise comply with all legislative requirements.
- (2) There is to be a feed room, wash area, isolation cages and maternity section.
- (3) Materials used in structures are to be approved by the local government.
- (4) The internal surfaces of walls are, where possible, to be smooth, free from cracks, crevices and other defects.
- (5) All fixtures, fittings and appliances are to be capable of being easily cleaned, resistant to corrosion and constructed to prevent the harbourage of vermin.
- (6) Washing basins with a minimum of running cold water are to be available to the satisfaction of the local government.
- (7) The maximum number of cats to be kept on the premises stated on the permit is not to be exceeded.

- (8) Catteries are only able to be considered on properties zoned Rural and Rural Smallholdings, and where development approval has been granted for an Animal Establishment.
- (9) Approved breeders are subject to a maximum of 12 unsterilised cats being considered.
- (10) A register is to be kept recording in respect of each cat the—
 - (a) date of admission;
 - (b) date of departure;
 - (c) breed, age, colour and sex; and
 - (d) name and residential address of the owner.
- (11) The register is to be made available for inspection on the request of an authorised person.
- (12) Enclosures are to be thoroughly cleaned each day and disinfected at least once a week to minimise disease, with all effluent disposal compliant with any conditions imposed by the health services department of the local government.
- (13) Any sick or ailing cat is to be removed from the premises or transferred to an isolation cage separated from other cats kept on the premises.
- (14) Any other matter which in the opinion of the local government is deemed necessary for the health and wellbeing of any cat, or person, or adjoining premises or the amenity of the area (or any part thereof).

Note: Any cattery, cat management facility, including within a veterinary facility may additionally require planning approval

Schedule 2
PRESCRIBED OFFENCES
[Clause 6.2]

Item	Clause	Description	Modified Penalty
1.	2.1(1)	Cat causing a nuisance	\$200
2.	2.1(4)	Failure to comply with an abatement notice	\$200
3.	2.2(2)	Cat in a prohibited area	\$200
4.	3.2(1)	Failure of a person to hold a permit when required	\$200
5.	3.8	Breach of a condition of a permit	\$200
6.	6.1(2)	Other offences not specified	\$200

Schedule 3

CAT PROHIBITED AREAS

[Clause 2.2]

Places where cats are prohibited

Official/Common Site Name	Subject Land Information	Site Description	Status
Lot 2857 Linton Street North	Shire Land - Lot 2857 Linton Street North	Shire Bush land	Prohibited
Lot 4490 King Jarrah Circle	Shire land - Lot 4490 King Jarrah Circle	Shire Bush land	Prohibited
Chestnuts Estate, Jarrahdale	Chestnuts Estate Shire land Lot 156, 163, 4426, 4488, 4490, 4495, 4504, 4522, 4890, 4891, 5028, 5029, 5035, 8001	Shire land	Prohibited
Woodland Plot, Jarrahdale	Lot 199 Jarrahdale Road, Jarrahdale. AMD 179 GG18/12/15	Special Use	Prohibited
Brickwood Reserve	Lot 5567 Turner Road, Byford (Reserve 17490)	Conservation Reserve (Type 3R)	Prohibited
Brickwood Reserve	Lot 111 Turner Road, Byford (Reserve 17490)	Conservation Reserve (Type 3R)	Prohibited
Lowlands Reserve	Lots 300 and 301 Lowlands Road,	Conservation Reserve (Type 3R)	Prohibited
Elliott Road & Yangedi Road South, Conservation Reserves	Lot 77 Yangedi Road South and Lot 1 Elliott Road, Keysbrook	Bush Forever site 77	Prohibited