

5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

City of Vincent Council  
C/- Chris Dixon  
Project and Strategy Officer  
Email: mail@vincent.wa.gov.au

**RE: Draft Animal Amendment Local Law 2023**

Dear Mayor & Councilors,

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association established to consult with government in advocating for real animal welfare by those who keep, breed and care for animals. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

Animal Care Australia would like to make the following observation in reference to the current Council Draft:

While Animal Care Australia acknowledges the recent for the proposed change to 3.7.1 (b)::

*Clause 3.7(1) is replaced with:*

*(1) Every licence is issued subject to the following conditions—*

*(a) each cat kept on the premises to which the licence relates must comply with the requirements of*

*the Cat Act;*

*(b) the licence holder will provide adequate space for the exercise of each cat kept on the premises;*

*(c) the premises must be maintained in good order and in a clean and sanitary condition; and*

*(d) the conditions contained in Schedule 3.*

6. Schedule 5 amended

*Schedule 5 is amended by – 1. Deleting the item as follows – 19. 3.7(1)(b) Failure to contain each cat on premises 200 and;*

*2. Renumbering the subsequent items accordingly.*

Animal Care Australia questions the decision by the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation when stating there is no supporting definition for ‘effective control’ that could be applied to cats. The definition outlined within the Dog Act states:

- *Effective control is defined as*
  - *held by a person who is capable of controlling the cat*
  - *securely tethered*
  - *secured in a cage*
  - *any other means of preventing escape*

The above definition can easily be applied to cats.

Animal Care Australia does not support the removal of the clause as it places greater animal welfare risk to the cats now able to ‘free roam’.

Animal Care Australia supports cat containment that requires cats to remain on their owners property at all times as curfews have limited impact on the issues relating to roaming cats unless it is a 24/7 containment. However, there are some items that need serious consideration and any changes to local animal management laws should provide an avenue for greater consultation and feedback.

- Cats that have been allowed to roam need time to adjust to be confined and it may have detrimental welfare impacts if the cat is not allowed time to become accustomed to the changes
- Costs of installing cat runs or other methods are expensive and this should be taken into consideration in the current cost of living crisis
- Council should provide assistance for cat owners wishing to construct or instal appropriate containment enclosures. Councils should recognise the need to consult with all residents in their catchment area and to provide assistance with approval processes for the construction of enclosures etc.

Animal welfare concerns MUST be placed ahead of red-tape based legislative changes. Animal Care Australia believes the decision by the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation stating there is no supporting definition for 'effective control' and therefore instructing Council to remove their containment provision is irresponsible, and lazy.

Community consultation on the development of a suitable definition would have been more beneficial to cat owners, their cats and the native wildlife within the Shire. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

Please do not hesitate to make contact if we can assist further.

Kind regards,



Michael Donnelly  
President  
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