

In July 2018, feral cats were declared an established pest animal on specified Crown land in Victoria under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994, however feral cats have not been declared an established pest on private land, meaning farmers and other private landholders are not legally required to control feral cats.

Management of feral cats in peri urban areas is not easy, they are seldom seen, when they are, they run very fast and they are smart, so often won't walk into humane capture cage traps. However, the impacts of free roaming pet cats are relatively simple to reduce. Pet cats can be kept inside all the time without detriment to their health which can prevent them killing 109 native animals per year (59% of 186), RSPCA has a great guide on how to keep your cat healthy and happy at home see the link below. <https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/03-community/pets-and-animals/rspca-australia-guide-to-keeping-your-cat-safe-and-happy-at-home.pdf>

Feral and free roaming domestic cats in Australia cause much destruction to native wildlife. This infographic from a Conversation article below shows just how big the problem is.

Infographic from: <https://theconversation.com/one-cat-one-year-110-native-animals-lock-up-your-pet-its-a-killing-machine-138412>

Article by Tim Harte from Barrabool Hills Landcare Group.

## Cats and Australian wildlife by the numbers

### Pet cats

There are 3.8 million pet cats in Australia, of which:



...are kept inside 24 hours a day.



...are allowed outside to roam and hunt.

- Roaming pet cats **kill 390 million animals** collectively per year in Australia
- An individual roaming pet cat **kills 186 reptiles, birds and mammals per year**, most of them (59%) native species
- A study found **39% of cats** brought in at night **snuck out** for nocturnal roaming and hunting
- Pet cats bring home only 15% of what they hunt.

### Feral cats

- The average feral cat **kills 748 reptiles, birds and mammals** a year
- In the bush there is **one feral cat per 3 to 4km<sup>2</sup>**, versus **40 to 70 pet cats per km<sup>2</sup>** around towns
- **Pet cats kill 30-50 times more animals per km<sup>2</sup>** around towns than feral cats do in the bush.

