

Forest & Bird says . . .

Cats

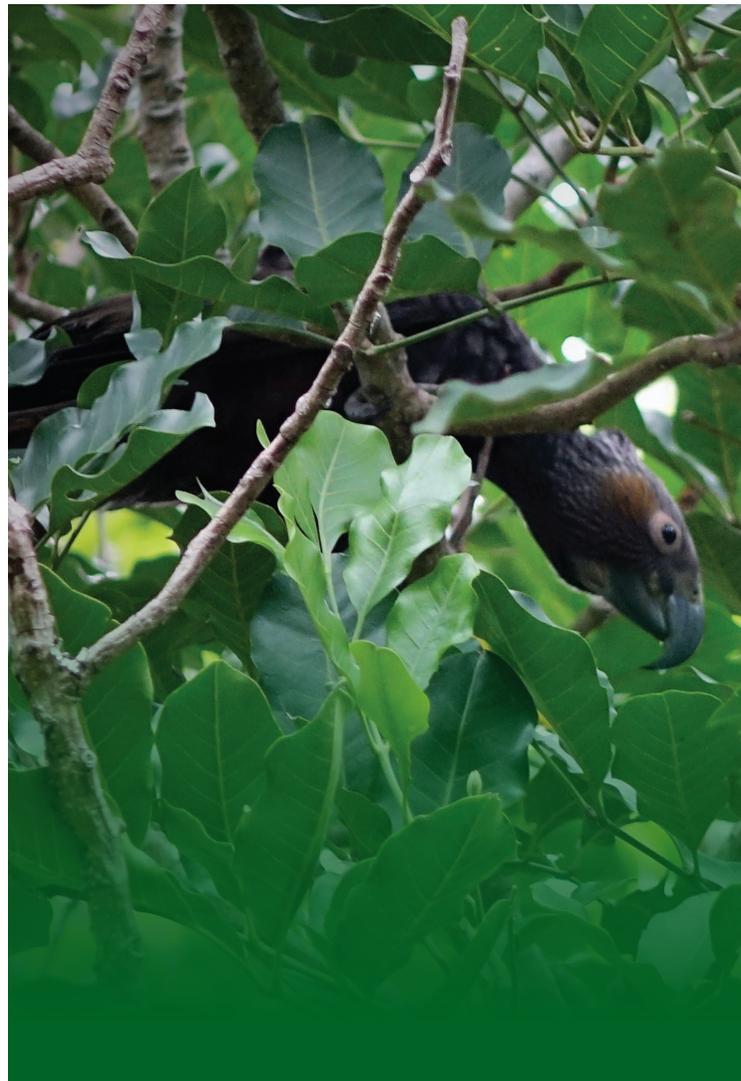
To reduce predation of native birds and lizards by your cat we recommend:

- Feed your cat well with a complete and balanced diet and ensure your cat is appropriately fed while you away on holiday (either at home or in a cattery).
- Do not take your cat away with you to conservation areas on or off-island.
- Provide moving toys for your cat to play with to reduce boredom.
- Keep your cat indoors at night (native wildlife are particularly vulnerable at dawn and dusk).
- NEVER abandon a cat. Abandoned cats are too numerous on Waiheke. If you cannot keep your cat for some reason, the SPCA can help you with this.
- A bell and collar reduces wildlife predation.
- Protect native wildlife in your garden by locating bird feeders away from cover where a cat might hide and putting animal guards around trees where a nest is seen.

Dogs

To prevent predation of coastal and ground nesting birds by your dog we recommend:

- Know and follow Waiheke dog rules.
 - See: <http://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/2016/04/protecting-the-little-blue-penguin/>
 - For greater detail on dog rules see: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/en/licencesregulations/bylaws/pages/localboardproposedchangestodogaccess.aspx
- Do not encourage your dog to chase birds on any beach, reserve, park or track.
- Join a local puppy or dog training group to ensure your dog is always under your control.
- Be aware that little blue penguins nest in the rock walls beside and below the Matiatia ferry walkway. They often use the boat ramps to enter their burrows. Please have your dog on a leash in this area.



Waiheke wildlife
needs you to be a
responsible pet owner



Working together
towards responsible
Waiheke pet ownership



5 Freedoms

The 5 freedoms are a set of internationally-recognised animal welfare standards. They outline what we as animal owners and carers must provide. They are not just things we want to do for our animals, but also things we must do in order to be responsible owners. The 5 freedoms are:

- 1 Freedom from hunger and thirst (food and water)**
All animals deserve access to clean water and a well-balanced, nutritious diet. Freedom from hunger and thirst provides for animals most basic needs by allowing that animal to remain in good health and full of vitality.
- 2 Freedom from discomfort (shelter)**
All animals should live in an appropriate environment. The conditions and surroundings given to an animal contribute to their overall well-being. By providing an animal with shelter and a comfortable resting area, you are ensuring that the animal remains healthy and happy.
- 3 Freedom from pain, injury and disease (medical care)**
All animals should be entitled to immediate veterinary attention when sick or injured to avoid unnecessary suffering. In certain cases, unnecessary pain and injury can be prevented through regular visits to a vet.
- 4 Freedom to express normal behaviour (exercise)**
All animals should be allowed to express normal behaviours. A normal behaviour is the way an animal acts in its natural environment. Enough space, proper shelter and housing as well as adequate exercise, opportunity to play and the company of the animal's own kind encourages the expression of normal behaviours.
- 5 Freedom from fear and distress (love and understanding)**
All animals deserve to be happy. Conditions that avoid unnecessary anxiety and stress will help to provide freedom from mental suffering. While favourable physical conditions are essential, appropriate mental conditions are also important to good animal welfare.

Waiheke SPCA says . . .

What's good for Waiheke's wildlife is also good for your pet.

- + **Provide appropriate shelter for your pet.**
Dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs need to be contained and protected. Make sure that they have adequate space and it is dry and warm.
- + **De-sex your pets when they are young.**
It's a nice idea to let your pet have 'just one litter' but the reality is that there are already too many animals needing homes. Don't add to the problem - de-sex your pet before they reach sexual maturity. This also reduces your pet's inclination to fight, or roam and risk getting lost or hurt, and makes cats less likely to mark territory by 'spraying' around your home.
- + **Microchip your pet.**
Microchipping dramatically increases your chances of being reunited with your pet if he or she becomes lost. If caught in DOC traps or found roaming, an animal without identification may be presumed wild or stray and euthanased.
- + **Keep cats in between dawn and dusk.**
This is when they will be hunting and small creatures are out and about.
- + **Make sure your pet wears correct identification.**
Dogs MUST wear collars with tags. Cats can wear collars for ID purposes, but please make sure they are quick release.
- + **Feed your pet a good diet.**
A content and well-fed cat is less likely to hunt.
- + **Make sure your pet is mentally stimulated and exercised well.**
Cats who play at home are less likely to need to express their natural behaviours by hunting.
- + **Never 'dump' an animal**
Domesticated animals are NOT the same as their wild cousins and do not do well in the wild. It is cruel, irresponsible and illegal to dump any animal. If you are struggling to care for your pet, please, talk to us first - we're here to help.



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