

Legislation

(Animal Welfare Act and Regulations 1999)

- No leg hold or gin traps.
- Animal Welfare Act and Regulations prohibit the use of leg-hold traps in residential areas and within 150 metres of dwellings or places where there are likely to be pets.
- The Animal Welfare Act does allow for the use of traps such as live catch and Timms kill traps.
- It is a criminal offence to inhumanely euthanise any animal and any offenders may be prosecuted in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

Disposal of Trapped Cats

Trapped cats can be taken to the Vet to be euthanised. Council is not offering this service, but has secured a cheap euthanasia rate through one of the local Vet Clinics—please enquire at counter.

- All possible precautions must be taken to ensure that the trapped cat is NOT a pet by making reasonable enquiries to all neighbours and surrounding properties before humanely euthanising the cat.
- If you are not sure if the cat in your trap is indeed a feral cat, you can take it to the SPCA or the Vet and they will investigate.
- Council CANNOT keep/hold or house any cats and it is the responsibility of the “Hirer” of the trap to dispose of the cat humanely.



A Guide to

Feral Cats



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Cat Definitions

Domestic Cats	These cats live entirely with humans as companion cats and are dependent on humans to provide their food, water, shelter and for their overall wellbeing.
Stray Cats	These cats are companion cats which have become lost or have been abandoned but still have many of their needs indirectly supplied by humans.
Feral Cats	These cats have none of their needs provided by humans and their population size fluctuates largely independently of humans. Feral cat populations are self-sustaining and requires no input from the domestic cat population



The Difference between Feral and Other Cats

Pet Cat - Behaviour and Characteristics	Feral Cat - Behaviour and Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well fed • Well taken care of • Not excessively aggressive • Not mangy looking • Purr and meow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diseased looking (weeping eyes/diarrhoea) • Short haired, slight build, large head and sharp features • Do not purr or meow • Aggressive



Traps

Ruapehu District Council has two cat traps available for hire to trap feral cats.

- Cage traps are most suitable where there is a higher risk of catching pets.
- Council will provide a trap for a refundable \$20 bond/deposit.
- Cat traps will be available to a user for a period of one week.
- Council is not responsible for the disposal of trapped cats.
- A User Application Form with Terms and Conditions for renting of the cat traps will be available from all Council Offices.