



Nelson City Council

Cat Management Bylaw

Adopted by Council: 5 December 2024

Publicly notified: 18 December 2024

Commencement: 19 December 2024

Review: 5 December 2029

Expiry: 5 December 2031

1. Title

1.1 The title of this bylaw is the Cat Management Bylaw.

2. Commencement

2.1 This bylaw comes into force on 19 December 2024.

3. Purpose and Application

3.1 The purpose of this bylaw is to regulate the keeping of cats within Nelson City.

3.2 This Bylaw shall apply to all cats within Nelson City.

4. Definitions and Interpretation

4.1 In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

Cat means a domestic animal of the species *Felis catus*, including both male and female cats, regardless of breed, kept as a pet, companion, or for other purposes.

Desexed means the surgical sterilisation of an animal, which involves the removal of reproductive organs to prevent breeding. In male cats, this is known as neutering, and in female cats, it is known as spaying.

Microchipped means a registered vet has implanted a small electronic device (microchip) under the skin of an animal, typically between the shoulder blades, that contains a unique identification number which can be read by a scanner. This number is linked to a registry containing information about the animal and its owner.

Nationally Recognised Cat Breeders Body means an organisation that is officially acknowledged at the national level for its role in promoting, regulating, and supporting the breeding of cats according to established standards. This body maintains records of registered breeders and ensures adherence to ethical breeding practices.

Nelson City means the territory contained within the City of Nelson as defined in Schedule 2 to the Local Government Act 2002.

5. Cat Management Provisions

5.1 Any cat over four months of age must be:

a. Microchipped and the cat’s microchip registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register; and

b. Desexed, unless:

i. the cat is kept for breeding purposes; and registered with a nationally recognised cat breeders body, or

ii. the owner provides a certificate from a registered veterinarian stating that the desexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare.

Existing cat owners shall be granted a transition period from the commencement of this bylaw, during which they are required to desex, microchip and register any cats they already own. This transition period shall extend until June 1, 2026.

6. Council resolution

6.1 This bylaw was made by Nelson City Council at a meeting of the Council on 5 December 2024.

The common seal of the Nelson City Council is attached in the presence of:

_____ Mayor

_____ Chief Executive

Date: