

1. Introduction

The parklands of Sydney Olympic Park were declared a 'wildlife protection area' under the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998* in October 2015 (Appendix 1). This procedure sets out Sydney Olympic Park Authority's approach to managing cats within the precinct to give effect to this declaration and in accordance with the Authority's legislated duties.

Sydney Olympic Park contains a rich biodiversity, supporting over 200 species of native birds, frogs, bats, possums and lizards, and over 300 hectares of threatened species habitats. The Park's wildlife is at risk of predation from feral and domestic cats. Increasing levels of residential development within and adjacent to the Park is linked to increased sightings of cats within the Park's habitats.

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* and *Companion Animals Regulation 2018* outline the duties and responsibilities of persons in charge of domestic cats, and the actions and penalties that can be enforced if owners do not comply with these requirements.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority has a number of duties and obligations for Park management as the owner and manager of the place and has developed this procedure in response thereto. The following key statutory sources are driving this procedure:

- Obligation to protect the environment within the parklands (s28 of the *Sydney Olympic Park Authority Act 2001*)
- Predation by feral cats is listed as a 'key threatening process' under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and also under the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- SOPA is a 'local authority' within the meaning of the *NSW Companion Animals Regulation 2018* (cl 37(1)(b)) for lands within Sydney Olympic Park.
- Provisions of the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998* relating to registration and identification of cats, and to the management of cats in public places.

Through implementation of this procedure the Authority aims to:

- protect native wildlife
- prevent development of feral cat populations within the Park
- protect welfare of cats
- support responsible pet ownership

2. To whom this procedure applies

This procedure applies to all employees, consultants and contractors of the Department. It also applies to employees, consultants and contractors of all DPIE Cluster entities that have people employed in or through the Department.

3. Procedure

Sydney Olympic Park Authority supports management of domestic and feral cats in accordance with legislative provisions of the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 (CAA)*:

1. Cats are prohibited from the following public places (CAA s30(1)):
 - a. Within 10 metres of apparatus provided at food preparation or consumption areas, including picnic tables, barbecues, and outdoor dining areas (excluding public pathways and roadways).
 - b. Declared Wildlife Protection Areas. Appendix 1 identifies the lands declared as Wildlife Protection Areas at Sydney Olympic Park.
2. Notification of Wildlife Protection Areas
 - a. Wildlife Protection Areas are signposted.
 - b. The community was notified of these areas when the policy was introduced in 2015, and is periodically provided with ongoing information and information posted on the SOPA website.
3. Within prohibited public places (CAA s30(1),(3)):
 - a. All cats are prohibited.
 - b. Sydney Olympic Park Authority staff or agents may catch and impound cats found within these areas, using humane techniques.
 - c. Sydney Olympic Park Authority may set cage traps within such areas to humanely capture cats. Trapping programs will be conducted in accordance with the [Code of practice and standard operating procedure for the effective and humane management of feral cats](#) (NSW Department of Primary Industries, 2022)
 - d. Where the owner of a cat is present, an authorised officer of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority may seize and impound a cat if the owner fails to remove it after being directed by the officer to do so.
 - e. Cats found attacking or harassing an animal (other than vermin) within a wildlife protection area may be seized or destroyed by Authority staff or agents if there is no other reasonably practical way of protecting the animal (CAA s32(4)).
4. Handling of impounded animals (CAA s62 - 65)
 - a. Impounded cats will be transported to an approved premise (a local veterinary hospital), where they will be checked for identification.
 - i. Where an animal has identification, the owner will be contacted and may collect the animal from the veterinary hospital. The owner is responsible for meeting costs charged by the facility for caring for the animal. Any

unregistered cat must be microchipped and registered prior to its release.

- ii. Where the owner does not collect the animal within 24 hours following delivery of the animal, it will be transferred to an impounding facility, the owner formally notified, and the animal held for the prescribed period.
- b. Cats without identification but assessed as being domestic will be transported to an impounding facility and held for the prescribed period.
- c. Cats assessed by a veterinarian to be feral (due to absence of identification and behaviour) or dependent young, may be euthanised (CAA s64(2))

4. Failure to comply with this procedure

The Authority may issue fines to owners of cats found within Wildlife Protection Areas (CAA s30(2)). Fines will be considered where a cat is found within a Wildlife Protection Area on more than one occasion.

5. Review timeframe

SOPA Urban renewal & Environment branch will review this procedure no later than three years from the date the document is approved. The document may be reviewed earlier in response to post-implementation feedback, changes to legislation, or as necessary.

6. Related documents

Legislation that should be read in conjunctions with this procedure:

- *NSW Companion Animal Act 1998; NSW Companion Animals Regulation 2018*
- [Code of practice and standard operating procedure for the effective and humane management of feral cats](#) (NSW Department of Primary Industries, 2022)

Procedure metadata

Table 1 – Procedure metadata

Category	Description
Status	Active
Date of approval	25 January 2024
Approver	Director Urban Renewal and Environment
Group	Property, Development and Valuation
Division	Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Policy owner	Manager Environment & Ecology
Branch	Urban Renewal & Environment
Document location	SOPHIE (SOPA Intranet)
Next review date	January 2027
Associated procedure	-
Any additional applicability	-
Superseded document	POL14/3 Cat Management Policy
Further information	Kerry.darcovich@sopa.nsw.gov.au
Document Reference	PRO24/1

Version control


Table 2 - Version Control

Version Number	Date Issued	Changes
1	October 2015	Approved by CEO
1.1, 1.2, 1.3	2018-2021	Review and minor editorial updates
2	November 2023	Conversion to DPHI policy format; minor editorial updates

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Declaration of Wildlife Protection Areas

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SydneyOlympicPark 

DECLARATION UNDER NSW COMPANION ANIMALS ACT 1998

The land shaded in green on drawing 001-GG-0283, titled 'Wildlife Protection Areas' is declared a prohibited public place under section 30(1)(b) of the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998*.

Cats are prohibited from this land for the protection of wildlife.



Alan Marsh
Chief Executive Officer
Date

7 October 2015

Sydney Olympic Park Authority, 8 Australia Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127
Tel +612 9714 7300 | Fax +612 9714 7818 | ABN 68 010 941405 www.sopa.nsw.gov.au
www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au

Map 1

Wildlife Protection Areas declared under s30(1) of the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998*.

