

Surrendering a Pet Cat



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Cats are the second most popular pet across Tasmania and for many people they are a treasured part of the family. Nobody likes to have to part company with their cat, but sometimes it is unavoidable. The main reasons people surrender their cat are:

- ▶ a family member has passed away and the family is unable to look after the cat;
- ▶ people who own a cat move to a new house and their new accommodation is not suitable or pets are not allowed to be kept on the premises;
- ▶ somebody in the family has an allergy to the cat;
- ▶ the cat became pregnant and the owner now has an unwanted litter of kittens; or
- ▶ the cat has behavioural issues.

Before choosing to surrender a cat it is important to explore other options.

Very few rental properties will explicitly state that they accept pets on the premises, but if you approach the agent or landlord, they might be open to negotiation. It might help if you can provide a letter of reference for your cat from your previous landlord and encourage the rental agent to meet your well-behaved and well-groomed cat.

Like humans, cats experience a range of emotions that may affect their behaviour. Several common cat behaviours are considered undesirable and can affect the quality of life of both the cat and the owner. Fortunately, many of these behaviours can be corrected. You can visit www.tassiecat.com for information on common behavioural issues of cats and tips on how to fix them. If you are unable to solve the problem yourself, please visit your local veterinarian as they will be able to rule out any health problems and provide you with professional advice specific to your cat's situation.

Desexing your cat will ensure you don't face the need to rehome any unwanted litters of kittens. You should have your cat desexed before it becomes sexually mature, which can be as early as four months of age. It is a common myth that cats need to have at least one litter to stay healthy. This is NOT true. In fact, desexed cats have a longer life expectancy than non-desexed cats. If your cat does have an unwanted litter you should desex your cat afterwards to prevent any future litters.





If you have to take your cat to a cat management facility, **do not feel guilty.** Your situation may have changed due to circumstances that are beyond your control and surrendering your cat will provide it with the best chance of finding another caring home.

Finding your cat a new home

If you have tried everything and you still cannot keep your cat safely and happily inside with your family, you should try to rehome your cat. The best solution for your cat will be to find them a home with friends or family and allow your cat to keep all their own toys, bedding and scratching post. The familiar smells and objects will make it easier for your cat to successfully transition into their new home. Rehoming your cat with friends or family also means that you will be able to see your cat occasionally, which can reassure you that your cat is happy and healthy in their new home. It is important to note, however, when rehoming a cat, the *Cat Management Act 2009* requires the cat to be desexed and microchipped.

If you are unable to rehome your cat with friends or family, you should take your cat to a cat management facility. If they have the capacity, they will provide your cat with the best possible care and try to find it another loving home. Contact the cat management facility before you surrender your cat so they can inform you about the procedure and whether they have capacity to take in your cat.



Cat management facilities are run by not-for-profit organisations and operate on public donations and other fundraising activities. It costs the facilities a lot of money to care for your cat until they can find it a new home.

Please check with them what fees may apply or whether a donation may be requested to assist with the care of your cat.

For more info visit: www.tassiecat.com

Abandoning a cat is never OK

Abandoning your cat is an offence under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* and the *Cat Management Act 2009* of Tasmania and penalties apply. If you abandon your cat you leave it to a life of neglect, disease and starvation and you will be contributing to the population of stray and feral cats in Tasmania. Stray and feral cats have a significant impact on Tasmania's native wildlife and can spread diseases such as toxoplasmosis.

Cat management facilities in Tasmania

Ten Lives Cat Centre – Hobart

www.tenlives.com.au ☎ 03 6278 2111

Just Cats Tasmania – Mowbray

www.justcats.org.au ☎ 03 6388 9202

