

Living with Nature on your Doorstep

The Fair is a declared 'cat containment' area because it is so close to the Mount Majura Nature Reserve. This is becoming common practice in the ACT and in other parts of Australia where new housing developments are close to environmentally sensitive areas.



Compensate cats kept indoors with plenty of stimulation, such as scratching posts, cat grass and toys.

What does cat containment mean?

Cats being kept by residents of The Fair must be contained on private property 24-hours a day. Although cats are most active at night, they still hunt during the day, which is why cat containment is much more effective than a cat curfew.

Protecting your cat

Cats that are kept indoors or in backyards generally live longer because they are less likely to be hit by a car, attacked by another cat or a dog, catch disease or become trapped.

Protecting our wildlife

A roaming cat in a nature reserve poses a serious threat to native wildlife. Even the sight or smell of a cat can cause severe distress to native animals. Cats have a natural tendency to chase and prey on small animals. This puts Mt Majura's threatened species, such as Scarlet Robins and Sugar Gliders, at risk.

Keeping your cat happy

Cats need plenty of mental stimulation and exercise to keep them healthy and amused.

Outdoor adventures

Backyard enclosures and adaptive fencing are great ways to allow your cat to stay safe while it explores the great outdoors. Visit the RSPCA website - www.rspca-act.org.au - for DIY solutions and recommended suppliers.

Indoor Fun

There are lots of things you can do to keep your cat entertained and healthy in the house:

- Keep a small pot of cat friendly grass in an accessible location
- Food balls and other interactive toys are good fun for your cat and keep them in great mental and physical shape
- Scratching posts help your cat to maintain the health and length of its claws
- Cardboard boxes are fun for hiding in or filling with treats and surprises
- Cloth bags and foil balls make great toys
- Ensure there is always a clean litter tray and that daily fresh water is available.

If you see a wandering cat...

Notify Domestic Animal Services (Parks and Conservation Service) on **13 22 81**.

By law, the Domestic Animal Service rangers can seize cats found outside their property in a declared area, such as The Fair, and a fine may be issued to the owner. The ACT Government announced its cat containment policy for The Fair in September 2011, under Section 81 of the Domestic Animals Act 2000.

Both the Mt Majura Nature Reserve and the streets of The Fair residential development are dog 'on-leash' areas. For information about associated fines and regulations visit www.tams.act.gov.au

Mt Majura Nature Reserve and its surrounds are full of smelly and tasty distractions which can tempt even the best trained dog before you have time to stop it. This can be extremely dangerous for your dog as both snakes and kangaroos can cause serious injury or death if they attack. Unrestrained dogs are also at risk of becoming lost, being hit by cars or causing problems for other dogs and their walkers.

Protect our wildlife

Dogs off-leash in reserves can easily harm lizards, young kangaroos, birds and trample habitat. Seeds can also collect on their fur and spread weeds throughout the native vegetation.



Local farmhand dog Mo encounters a Kangaroo on a Mt Majura farm. Luckily Mo makes the right decision and decides to make a run for it. Mo continues to live happily ever-after. *Courtesy Stuart Harris and 'Mo.'*

Not a dog bath

The dams on Mt Majura Nature Reserve are being rehabilitated with native water plants and to serve as breeding ground for invertebrates, frogs and birds.

As tempting as it might be, please do not use the dams as a dog swimming area because this causes damage to the water plants and will unsettle wildlife, such as birds that use the waterway.

Dog Parks and off-leash areas

Off-leash dog parks in Canberra are located at Belconnen, Greenway, Yarralumla, Forde and Casey. These are a great way to give your dog variety and an opportunity to socialise. A new off-leash dog park is also planned for North Canberra.

Go to www.tams.act.gov for a maps and information about Canberra's on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas.