

Chapter 2: Community Cat Coalition (hereafter referred to CCC)

2.1. Reason for existence

The Cat Coalition was established in Auckland on 28 February, 2009, as an initiative of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Auckland Inc. (SPCA Auckland) to support a number of volunteers who were attending to the needs of stray cats in the region.

It was clearly evident at that time that this large group of dedicated volunteers were undertaking the immense task of caring for large numbers of unwanted cats at their own expense without financial or moral support. Accordingly the purpose of establishing a coalition was to create a network of cat carers who collectively would be supported by the SPCA in their humanitarian work.

On **22 February, 2015**, the Cat Coalition became a fully independent Incorporated Society, to be known as the **Community Cat Coalition**, to reflect the services provided to the community through the humane management of stray cats by the collective, and putting mechanisms in place to involve the community in its ongoing work.

This volunteer network of cat carers is now equipped to provide this valuable service to the stray cats of Auckland in a thoroughly professional manner with strict recruitment conditions, training, the development of standards and policies in the care and maintenance of stray cats, and support activities that provide assistance with feeding, veterinary care (including de-sexing), identification and the sharing of information. The Community Cat Coalition is recognized as the pre-eminent cat caring collective in Auckland.

Why an Incorporated Society?

This establishes a structure that supports and protects the members/volunteers attending to their activities with the Coalition. The company's office definition helps to understand the relationship: *'An incorporated society is a group or organisation that has been registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 and, when incorporated, is authorised by law to run its affairs as though it were an individual person. This means that the members are not personally liable for the society's debts, contracts or other obligations. Likewise, members do not have any personal interest in any property or assets owned by the society'*.

2.2. Rules & memberships

The membership of the Community Cat Coalition consists of a group of approved volunteers who care for the needs of various categories of Stray Cats residing in the Auckland region. The members of the Society are supported by SPCA Auckland, which will provide services and resources to undertake the humane management of Stray Cats.

While the **Rules of the Community Cat Coalition Inc.** is included in Annexure A, this subsection focuses on the objectives of the Society, membership process and – benefits.



The objectives of the Society are defined hereunder:

- To attend to the management needs of Stray Cats in the Auckland region whether they be residing as groups in established colonies, or individually/collectively within the general community.
- To undertake the activities of the Society based on the established principles of *TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return)* and *T-TNR (Targeted Trap/Neuter/ Return)*. This means ensuring that Stray Cats in the care of the Society are de-sexed, health-checked, and identified before being returned to their place of trapping, and to ensure their ongoing daily care is attended to including shelter, feeding and health requirements.
- To ensure members are fully trained, including their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act (1999), in the established and recommended trapping protocol and in the requirements of operating the TNR procedures as approved.
- To work with the community and land owners in the areas where Stray Cats being cared for reside, and to establish and maintain communications with such parties.
- To provide access to cat colonies for the purpose of welfare audits. These welfare audits are to ensure such Cat Colonies are being managed responsibly.
- To participate in confidential research projects as required both for statistical and research material for the benefit of the Society, SPCA Auckland, or any other body that the Governing Committee considers appropriate.
- To maintain records of Stray Cats in care in a form approved by the Governing Committee, as amended by them from time to time.
To foster and encourage the kind and humane treatment of cats (including Stray Cats) in the community, and to prevent and discourage cruelty to cats by education and involvement.
- To assist other organisations to supply research-based information to assist both local and central government to encourage supportive responsible cat management solutions.

Membership process of the society:

- Membership of the Society shall be open to any individuals, groups or organisations, whether incorporated or not, involved in the direct care of Stray Cats in the Auckland Region as set out in the objectives above.
- All applications (refer to Annexure B for the **Application form**) for membership must be signed by the applicant and tendered to the Secretary, in writing and on the Society's current membership application form, which can be amended by the Governing Committee from time to time, together with any required membership fee.
- The Governing Committee of the Society shall, in their sole discretion, determine the acceptability of all applications which shall be based on the completion of all information required on the membership application form and their agreement to comply with any additional conditions imposed by the Society from time to time. Applicants will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application.
- Decisions of the Governing Committee in relation to membership are final and cannot be challenged or appealed. Applicants are, however, permitted to re- apply from time to time.



- Successful applicants shall be delivered a numbered identification card (ID card). The purpose of this card is to identify members as a current members of the Society, including when receiving the benefits provided by the Society.

Benefits of CCC membership:

- Members will have access to the following benefits to be provided in each case at the sole discretion of the Governing Committee:
 - veterinary support, most specifically for the de-sexing of Stray Cats;
 - the supply of cat food when available to be used in caring for Stray Cats; and
 - other support that may be requested including of a financial nature by the member from time to time and as approved by the Governing Committee.
- Members will also be trained in trapping, TNR and T-TNR techniques.
- Members will be entitled to apply, in writing, to:
 - the Secretary to receive a copy of the minutes of the previous AGM; and/or inspect the register of members;
 - the Treasurer to inspect the financial statements; and
 - the Governing Committee to inspect the records of the society.
- The Governing Committee may, at their sole discretion, request the member to pay a fee to cover the cost of providing the member with the information.
- Membership of the Society shall fall due on 01 July annually and is renewable on such date.

2.3. Finances

A treasurer is appointed annually and is responsible for all financial matters, which includes, but is not limited to, keeping proper accounting records, preparation and filing of Annual Financial statements, receipt and deposit of funds and payment of the Society's bills.

The Governing Committee is empowered to on behalf of the society, obtain and raise funds by subscriptions, donations or public or personal appeals or any other means whatsoever, and receive legacies on behalf of the Society.

No subcommittee shall have the authority to commit the Society to any obligation or financial expenditure without express written authority from the Governing Committee.

One means of securing funds is through receiving donations via Givealittle. The relevant widget is available on the CCC Website and Facebook anyone can swiftly donate funds to CCC by clicking on the link and following the prompts. Alternatively, one can use the following URL to donate to the CCC.

www.givealittle.co.nz/org/catcoalition

Key information:

Certificate of Incorporation # is 2620011

Bank account: 12-3054-0005265-00

Charity number:



2.4. Website & Facebook

The Community Cat Coalition has an online presence in the form of a Website and a Facebook page which allows the Society to build trust and reputation as a reliable and professional group of volunteers who care for and actively and humanely manage stray cats in Auckland.

The Website is geared towards sharing information, promoting the reason for the Society's existence in the hope of attracting donations, stimulating adoptions and support as well as growing the membership base. <http://www.catcoalition.org.nz/>

The Facebook page is a social media site which allows the Society's members to communicate with one another either in matters of emergency (i.e. help to foster kittens, need for food, etc.) or of a general nature.

www.facebook.com/catcoalition09

2.5. Resources & equipment

We have been fortunate to secure the support and collaboration of a number of **Vet clinics** (refer to Annexure C), who are willing to provide the much-needed medical services for the stray cats in Auckland.

SPCA Auckland provides subsidies towards the various medical interventions for the stray cats/kittens. The table below lists the various medical interventions and the subsidy amount as from July 2016:

Medical intervention	Subsidy amount
Male Neuter	\$35
Female Spay	\$50
Spay of heavily pregnant female	\$75
Microchip implant & registration	\$20
Euthanasia	\$10
Disposal (if required)	\$1.50 per kg of cat/kitten
Vaccinate	\$10

*** Amounts are effective from 1 July 2016*

The member, however, is responsible to pay the difference between the subsidy amount the total charged by the participating vet clinic.

Key tools of the trade are required to effectively undertake the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) activities of the Society.

- Traps and trap covers can be ordered from **Eagle Wire**, Jan Shew.
Email jan@eaglewire.co.nz Phone: 09 274 0621.
- Flea and deworming treatments can be procured from SPCA Auckland. The ordering process for the latter is on the following page.



The following items are for sale at a reduced rate for all members (all GST inclusive):



Custom-made humane steel traps
\$240 to members
 (retail \$270)



Custom-made water-proof trap covers
\$50 to members
 (retail \$75)



Advantage - (over 4kg)
 6 pack
\$38.42



Drontal – small (4kg) 100 pack **\$165**
 Drontal –large (6kg) 100 pack **\$242**



Revolution– kitten (2.5kg)
 3 pack **\$25.66**
 Revolution–2.5kg – 7kg
 6 pack **\$54.22**

The ordering process is as follows:

1. Pay the relevant amount into the SPCA's bank account nr: 12 3109 0100017 00
2. E-mail secretary@catcoalition.org.nz your order together with the proof of payment
3. Secretary to place all orders to SPCA Auckland's Head Vet Nurse by Fridays
4. Goods are procured by Monday the following week.
5. Goods usually arrive by Wednesday and can be collected or couriered
 - a. \$4.05 for local delivery (i.e. suburbs between Henderson, Albany, Howick, Drury, Airport)
 - b. \$11.55 for everywhere else in Auckland

PS: If you are uncertain, please feel free to email the CCC Secretary.

