

**SUBMISSION TO THE
CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY PLAN**

5 May 2006

Through my work in the office of the Cats' Protection League, I am made aware of the enormous population of stray, abandoned, neglected and feral cats in Christchurch.

This is created by irresponsible people who do not have their pets desexed. The resulting kittens are then dumped, abandoned or handed out to other irresponsible people and so the problem increases every season.

The problem is now so large that the animal welfare agencies are completely overwhelmed and can't cope. The Cats' Protection League cattery is always full to maximum capacity and there are 97 cats and kittens on the waiting list (this number increases daily). The R.S.P.C.A. is overflowing and despite euthanasing a large number of cats every week, they are actually turning away members of the public who take strays to them. Most of these cats probably end up being dumped.

The R.S.P.C.A. has asked Cats' Protection League not to refer people with strays to them as they can't cope with the numbers they are getting.

Most people are unable or unwilling to look after strays for several months until Cats' Protection League have room for them. What is to become of these poor cats?

Cats' Protection League and Cats Unloved are doing all they can to reduce the problem by encouraging people to have their cats desexed and by offering it at a reduced price or even free. Unfortunately, as these charities have no authority to enforce desexing they are fighting a losing battle against ignorance and apathy.

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If CCC would make it compulsory for everyone to have their pets desexed, except for approved breeders (who should have to pay a substantial yearly licence fee) the problem of cat over-population in Christchurch would be substantially reduced.

I hope you will consider this as there would be a lot of support both from animal lovers and from those who have had problems with unwanted cats on their property.

Thank you for your time.

Yours faithfully,



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