

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

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- Received by Email

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May 2009 and Monday 18 May 2009.

Name:

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CC:**Sent:**

Tue 14/04/2009 8:15 pm

Your Submission:

Cats, Dogs and Rats.

We have a dearth of dogs. They are locked up on sections and cannot wander the streets. If they wander they are caught by the pound and some are destroyed.

Mostly it is friendly dogs who are captured.

Cats however, and there are about 100,000 of them in Christchurch, are a plague. Cat lovers allow the cats to multiply. If 20,000 female cats are not desexed then, in a typical season, average of 10 kittens per cat, there are 200,000 kittens born. Maybe 100,000 are flushed down the loo. Most of the rest are killed or abandoned in some way. The Waimak river bank for example is full of them.

Cats should be registered and wandering cats dealt with the same as wandering dogs. It should cost the same to own a dog or a cat.

Cats once abandoned kill wildlife. Typically a stray cat weighing 3kg needs to kill ten small animals of each day to stay alive. However they do not normally kill rats. A few might, most do not. Rats fight back and they also kill wildlife.

We have a plague of rats both on the hill and in St Martins. A friend in St Martins asked me to help her catch rats on her section. The City Council were laying poison outside the section. Between us we caught a dozen rats on her section. When I visited her I saw a rat climbing into her roof by shinning up the spouting pipe. Insulation in the roof of course stops you hearing rats. You may have a couple of nests in your roof at the moment. An amusing tale is of a neighbour who airily said, 'no rats here', a moment later a rat ran along his fence.

Poison is of course a particularly horrid way to kill any animal. Also very expensive. The simple solution for Christchurch is to have all terrier dogs exempt from any license cost. They should be permitted to wander freely. This would solve both the rat and cat problem. Only real cat lovers would keep cats very securely locked up. The rest would simply vanish along with the rats.

Ray Spring.

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