

# APA Response to the ACT Government's Proposed Policy on Cat Containment 2016

1 If the ACT Government is so concerned to preserve wildlife then why are suburbs being built on their habitat and next to Canberra's nature reserves.

2 Canberra's urban reserves are not natural, in fact they are actually reclaimed farm land. One of the ways to protect these reserves is to build wildlife corridors to help wildlife pass safely through Canberra and its environs.

3 Predators including urban cats prey on whatever they can catch easily. Abundant species (such as rats, mice, rabbits, sparrows, pigeons etc) are more readily available therefore are easier to catch. That's how nature works.

4 In a screwed-up ecosystem like an urban area, where some species are overabundant (once again rats, mice, rabbits, sparrows, pigeons etc) due to the availability of human food waste, cats are often all that stands between these species and dangerous overcrowding. This overcrowding also exerts pressure on other (eg native) species that are competing with these overabundant species to survive in the urban area.

5 The numbers of animals killed by cats is trivial compared to the destruction of habitat and massacre of wildlife en masse by humans.

6 With other predators removed, cats will naturally fill the gap

7 In existing areas, where cats have had freedom to establish their own territories beyond their home yard all their lives, it would be terribly cruel to suddenly deprive them of this freedom. Cats in existing suburbs should be allowed the freedom to wander.