

POLICY NO: 3.9.8

**CATS, FOXES AND OTHER PREDATORS –
CONTROL MEASURES**

OBJECTIVES

To prescribe the City's role in the matter and identify and define ways that domestic fowl and other pets can be protected from indigenous and introduced predators and to facilitate the provision of advice to residents and ratepayers on how to make their property secure against attack by them.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. The City of Vincent Health Local Law deals with the keeping of domestic fowl and specifies the minimum standard for an enclosure for these birds. The Health Local Law, Division 4 (2) states:

“Poultry and pigeons shall be kept overnight in a properly constructed and securely fastened enclosure. The enclosure (chicken coop) is to have a smooth concrete floor at least 50mm thick so it can be adequately cleaned.”

2. There is currently no Western Australian Legislation, to deal with introduced predators, such as feral cats or foxes.
3. The City has no responsibilities and limited ability to trap foxes and other predators.
4. Generally, poison baiting is prohibited in the metropolitan area and the possible collateral dangers of shooting, precludes this method of control.
5. Any Fox Control Programme must have the co-operation of State Government Agencies such as C.A.L.M and the Department of Agriculture as well as surrounding Local Governments, which is difficult to achieve, because of the different needs and expectations of the electors.

Date Adopted:	11 May 2004
Date Amended:	
Date Reviewed:	1 February 2010
Date of Next Review:	February 2015

GUIDELINES AND POLICY PROCEDURE CONTROL MEASURES FOR FOXES, CATS AND OTHER PREDATORS – POLICY 3.9.11

1. Responsibility

Local Government does not have a responsibility to eradicate predators and it is acknowledged that they have limited expertise and ability to achieve this aim.

2. Health Local Laws

Under the Health Local Laws, residents and ratepayers have a responsibility to ensure that the enclosures for their fowl meet Health Local Law requirements and that fowl should be placed within this enclosure every night. It should be a prerequisite for a resident or ratepayer to comply with the Health Local Law, before the City provides any assistance.

3. Shooting and Baiting

Because shooting and poison baiting are prohibited within the Metropolitan area, the information and advice, provided by the City, is restricted to improvements to enclosures and trapping (cages).

4. Information and Advice to Residents and Ratepayers

The City will provide up to date information and advice to residents and ratepayers, to enable them to take the responsibility for preventing attacks from predators, such as foxes, feral cats, etc. This information should be reviewed occasionally, to establish if any up-dated strategies are available.

Trapping

The set up and use of traps is a delicate exercise, because predators are usually very cage-shy and sensitive to new enclosures and odours. While the capture of feral cats in a cage may occur, the capture of foxes is documented as being rare and very time consuming.

Because of public safety concerns and the risk of domestic animals being trapped, the City should not authorise the setting of traps in any public place. In an extreme situation, the City may engage a professional exterminator to set traps in an area, where the public do not have access.

Where attacks have occurred in a residential area, trapping should be the responsibility of residents and ratepayers and should occur only on their own private property. The City will provide information and advice on trap-setting, etc.

5. Den Fumigation

In the event of a den being identified, the City will engage a Licensed Pest Controller to fumigate the den. However, it is acknowledged that, due to the nature of foxes, it is difficult to locate dens within a suburban area, because foxes travel long distances for food and water. With fox territory spanning a number of different Local Government boundaries, dens may not be located in the City of Vincent.