

Details of submitter No: 1523 - Sam Lambie**Submitter:**

Sam Lambie

1523 - Sam Lambie

The world is changing rapidly and with big concerns like Climate Change and finances we need councils to be aware of a better future than ever before.

Things that need to be looked into are:

- Sustainable diets – allowing fast track process to build factories for lab grown meat and lab milk, because vegan diet is the only way to eat so we can reach Net Zero 2030. For protein huhu grubs have been trialled in Otago, a study with great results. That way we can get rid of all farming and convert all farmland into native trees for our blue/green spaces, no fertilisers, pesticides or mowing over bees and butterflies.
- Transport – the aim is to reach our smart city goals for 2030, in which most people do not own cars, they won't need them, those who must have them for work will require sustainable models like full electric, hydrogen or newer technologies and permits to restrict use in the future.
- Electricity is the future. We need to invest in all renewables as we won't be utilising any petrol or diesel. Cartage and roading won't be required since food will be vertically grown in plant based local labs. We can even live on pills like astronauts with everything we need, zero food requirements.
- Smartcities – these future proof us for Carbon Net Zero. You never need to leave home, except on foot as everything is place based with 15-20min walk zones. The idea is that most people work from home, exercise, entertainment, education all at home. Oxford in England is currently implementing this with 6 zones and each resident gets to apply for permission to leave their zone up to 100x each household per year in their car, which rely on licence plate recognition. To ensure this, the models that have been trialled in 4 provinces in China and have been really effective using facial and Iris pattern recognition. It's now so sophisticated people no longer need to carry their Mastercard's, they can pay for things at shop counters just with facial recognition technology. It is also highly effective for catching criminals and people with outstanding bills.

Geofencing and electronic gates are part of the smart network and will help divide the zone restrictions. Climate change lockdowns can then easily occur allowing for whole cities to remain inside to contain and limit CO2. Carbon sinks are already happening in NZ and used the world over, where we suck CO2 out of the air and contain it below the ground.

- CBDC – Central Bank Digital Currency are the future, a cashless society. All money will be run by a centralised Bank, digitally and as we advance like China this will prevent plastic manufacturing of bank cards and printed cash or coins saving once again the

CO2. We will be moving to the Social credit score system and this will allow authorities to punish people who don't follow the strict climate rules. China already does this and even putting a bottle for recycling into a wrong bin gets picked up and penalised as every single streetlight has new mesh network – smart capabilities that track every move, so if we have nothing to hide, life is great.

Details of submitter No: 1524 - Arnja Dale

Submitter:	Arnja Dale
Organisation:	Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc



Submission by the
Royal New Zealand Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc.
on
Selwyn District Council
Long-Term Plan 2024-2034

02 May 2024



Executive Summary

- SPCA is concerned with a recent decrease in the number of companion cats that are desexed, only half of companion cats are microchipped, and very few are kept at home and prevented from roaming.
- Desexing and microchipping companion cats helps protect cat and kitten welfare and are some of the few tools we have for addressing stray cat problems in our communities.
- The cost of the procedures is the most common barrier for companion cat owners to desex and microchip their cats.
- Our Snip 'n' Chip programme offers subsidised desexing and microchipping for people who need help with overcoming the cost of the procedures.
- We have included our Snip 'n' Chip Council Package with more detailed information about how we work with local councils to promote more responsible cat ownership.
- Through this submission, we invite the Selwyn District Council to help us achieve more responsible cat ownership by supporting our Snip 'n' Chip programme.



Table of Contents

Executive Summary 1

Introduction 3

Submission 3

 New Zealand needs more responsible cat owners 3

 Support more responsible cat ownership 4

Background 5

 Welfare-related benefits of desexing cats 5

 Welfare-related benefits of microchipping cats 9

 Other benefits of responsible cat ownership..... 10

Conclusion 10

References..... 11



Introduction

The following submission is made on behalf of The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (trading as SPCA).

SPCA is the preeminent animal welfare and advocacy organisation in New Zealand. The Society has been in existence for over 150 years with a supporter base representing more than 100,000 New Zealanders across the nation.

The organisation includes 29 Animal Welfare Centres across New Zealand and approximately 60 inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

SPCA welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Selwyn District Council Long-Term Plan 2024-2034.

Submission

SPCA thanks the Selwyn District Council Council for the opportunity to contribute to the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 consultation. Through this submission, we invite the Selwyn District Council Council to help us achieve more responsible cat ownership by supporting our subsidised desexing and microchipping programme, Snip 'n' Chip.

New Zealand needs more responsible cat owners

Cats are one of New Zealand's most popular companion animals. SPCA supports responsible ownership of companion cats to promote cat welfare and reduce problems with cat overpopulation. SPCA is concerned with a recent decrease in the number of companion cats that are desexed, only half of cats are microchipped, and very few are kept at home (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2020).

Each year, on average 20,000 cats and kittens come into our Centres. Many of these animals are directly or indirectly (through stray cat populations) a result of an owner failing to desex their



companion cat. Our SPCA Centres regularly see the welfare problems related to irresponsible companion cat ownership, including:

- the predictable cycle of unplanned litters of kittens born each year because there are too many undesexed companion cats allowed to breed; and
- the number of cats and kittens who are lost or have strayed, and we cannot find their owner because they are not microchipped, or their microchip details are not registered on a national database.

We also know that irresponsible cat ownership can lead to nuisance in communities (e.g., spraying, toileting, fighting), predation on wildlife, and the spread of toxoplasmosis to people and animals including farmed animals and vulnerable native marine mammals (e.g., Hector's and Māui dolphins).

Desexing and microchipping companion cats are some of the few tools we have to address problems with stray cats in our communities. Desexing a companion cat helps prevent unplanned litters of kittens which can end up as stray cats. Having a microchip registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register can help us identify an owner to reunite with a lost companion cat that may be living as a stray.

The cost of the procedure is the most common barrier for companion cat owners to desex and microchip their cats (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2020).

Support more responsible cat ownership

Our work in New Zealand communities to increase the number of cats and kittens that are desexed and microchipped is fundamental to our mandate to prevent cruelty and advance animal welfare. We provide more details on the welfare benefits of desexing and microchipping cats in the Background section of this submission.

Our Snip 'n' Chip programme offers subsidised desexing and microchipping for people who need help with overcoming the cost of the procedures. SPCA works closely with local veterinarians to



provide this service. The vouchers 'sell out' quickly once they are available, indicating this is a much sought-after service in communities.

SPCA has worked closely with Whangārei District Council, Auckland Council, Waitaki District Council, Dunedin City Council, and four Auckland Local Boards to address the barriers to desexing and microchipping cats.

We invite the Selwyn District Council Council to join us in our efforts to prevent problems before people end up dealing with difficult decisions about unwanted cats and cat behaviour in their communities.

We have included our Snip 'n' Chip Council Package with more detailed information about how we work with local councils to promote more responsible cat ownership.

Background

SPCA advocates for more responsible ownership of companion cats to improve the welfare of cats and to help address the problems with community nuisance, predation, and the overpopulation of stray cats.

Welfare-related benefits of desexing cats

Desexing can reduce the risk of certain diseases, reduce the likelihood of roaming (which can increase risks of harm such as disease and infection, injury, and becoming lost), and increase lifespan. Desexing can also prevent the mortality of unplanned kittens which is often overlooked as a welfare problem.

Table 1: Welfare-related benefits of desexing cats

Decreased risk of reproductive disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammary gland tumours are common in cats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16.3% of all tumours are in the mammary gland in an Italian registry, making this the second most common tumour site (Vascellari et al., 2009).



- 17% of all cancers reported were in the mammary gland in a California registry (1963-1966) making this the third most common cancer (Dorn et al., 1968).
- 8.2% of tumours in a Swiss feline cancer registry (1965-2008) were mammary gland tumours (Graf et al., 2016).
- Japanese and Siamese breeds are at increased risk of mammary tumours (Graf et al., 2016; Ito et al., 1996).

- Mammary tumours in cats have a high risk of being malignant:
 - >90% of mammary gland tumours in cats are malignant (Dorn et al., 1968; Hampe & Misdorp, 1974; Hayes et al., 1981).
 - A more recent study with a Swiss feline cancer registry found that 83% of mammary tumours were malignant (Graf et al., 2016).

- Desexing is protective against mammary tumours in cats:
 - Sexually intact cats have seven times the risk of developing mammary gland neoplasms when they get older compared to spayed female cats (Dorn et al., 1968).
 - Ovariectomy was found to protect against mammary carcinomas but not against benign mammary tumours. Intact cats are seven times overrepresented in the population of cats diagnosed with mammary tumours (Misdorp et al., 1991).
 - Desexed female cats had significantly lower odds than entire female cats of developing tumour/malignant tumour in the mammary gland (Graf et al., 2016).
 - Desexing before one year of age is protective against mammary carcinoma: 91% risk of reduction if desexed before 6 months, 86% reduction if before one year. Desexing after two years increased the risk (likely due to very few cats being desexed after this age) (Overley et al., 2005).

- Pyometra (uterine infection) risk increases significantly with age for female cats (Potter et al., 1991).

Increased lifespan and improved overall health

- Undesexed companion cats have significantly shorter lifespans than desexed companion cats (Hamilton et al., 1969; Kent et al., 2022; O'Neill et al., 2015).



- Being undesexed is a risk factor for cats developing degenerative joint disease (Lascelles et al., 2010; Slingerland et al., 2011), which is considered a leading cause of pain in cats (Robertson et al., 2010).
- Improved health for both male and female cats in managed colonies may be related to reduced reproduction-related aggression in males (Cafazzo et al., 2019; Finkler et al., 2011).
- Desexed male cats live a mean of 62% longer than undesexed male cats, and desexed female cats live a mean of 39% longer than undesexed female cats (Banfield Pet Hospital, 2013).
- For companion cats over five years of age in an English veterinary database, desexed female cats lived .6 months longer than undesexed female cats and desexed male cats lived 1.8 years longer than undesexed male cats (O'Neill et al., 2015).
- For companion cats over 1 year of age in a California teaching hospital database (Kent et al., 2022):
 - desexed females had a median lifespan of 10.48 years, compared to undesexed females that had a median lifespan of 4.68 years.
 - desexed males had a median lifespan of 9.84 years, compared to undesexed males who had a median lifespan of 3.67 years.
- For companion cats over the age of five years of age in a Pennsylvania database (Hamilton et al., 1969):
 - desexed male cats lived a median of 10.8 years compared to undesexed males who lived a median of 8.6 years. Deaths from trauma and infections were less common in desexed males.
 - male cats desexed before the age of five months, had a median lifespan of thirteen years compared to male cats desexed at six to seven months who had a median lifespan of eleven years.
- Cats at least six years of age and not desexed in an English database were twice as likely to have signs related to degenerative joint disease (Maniaki et al., 2021).
- Desexed stray cats were in better welfare condition compared to intact cats likely due to reduced reproduction-related aggression in males (Gunther, et al., 2018).



- Desexed male and female cats in a TNR (Trap Neuter Return) managed colony were less likely to be injured or have impaired health which may be related to decreased risk of infectious disease, nutritional deficiencies, and stress associated with reproduction (Gilhofer et al., 2019).

Decreased roaming risks

- Intact male cats are at higher risk of traffic accidents, injuries, bite wounds, and disease transmission compared to desexed males (Finkler et al., 2011; Gunther et al., 2015; 2018).
- Roaming (and fighting and spraying) reduced or eliminated in 80-90% of cats (Hart & Cooper, 1984).
- Desexing reduces activity related to territorial behaviour. Authors note cats are less active, which they do not specify includes roaming (Cafazzo et al., 2019).

Improved kitten welfare

- Unplanned kittens contribute to high numbers of animals surrendered to shelters. Kittens under the age of six months made up the largest proportion of owner-surrender cats to an animal shelter in Australia; 34% of all owner-surrendered animals were emaciated (Marston & Bennett, 2009).
- Kittens that enter the shelter system because they are from unplanned breeding can often be in a poor state of welfare. This is before shelter entry and not related to shelter stay. An average of 30% of kittens that came into SPCA Centres are categorised as not healthy at intake. Not healthy categories include Dead on Arrival; Unhealthy not treatable; Unhealthy treatable (urgent); Unhealthy treatable (non-urgent) (SPCA Intake Health Data: Jan 2021-Jul 2023)
- Free-roaming kittens had the highest prevalence of emaciation and thinness, lowest BCS (Body Condition Score) scores, and higher prevalence of severe injury or disability than adults. (Gunther et al., 2018).



- There is high variability among kitten mortality in stray cats, however, at least one study showed 75% mortality before six months, with trauma being the most common cause of death (Nutter et al., 2004).

Welfare-related benefits of microchipping cats

SPCA prefers microchipping as the primary form of identification for a cat because the chip cannot be removed, dislodged, or lost without surgical intervention. Once a cat is microchipped, the 15-digit microchip number and the animal and owner’s details can be registered with a microchip registration database, such as the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2018). Microchipping helps ensure a lost cat can be reunited with their owner, which can be especially true during emergencies.

Table 2: Welfare-related benefits of microchipping cats.

Welfare-related benefits of microchipping
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, 85% of owners of microchipped animals were contacted within 3 hours by the New Zealand Companion Animal Register, compared to only 25% of non-microchipped animals reunited with their owners within seven days (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2018).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 39% of microchipped cats were returned to their owners, compared to 2% returned for un-microchipped cats (Lord et al., 2010).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 51% of microchipped cats were returned to their owners compared to only 5% of un-microchipped cats (Lancaster et al., 2015).

The addition of a collar and tag for companion or managed stray cats can provide a visual indication of a cat’s ownership/management status and successfully help reunite lost cats with their owners/carers (Alberthsen et al., 2013; Lord et al., 2007, 2010).



Other benefits of responsible cat ownership

More responsible cat ownership can reduce the negative impacts cats can have including nuisance, predation on native wildlife, and spread of toxoplasmosis to both native animals and pastoral animals. Desexing and microchipping are longer-term strategies that will address problems with the overpopulation of cats and keeping cats at home can provide immediate local benefits for reducing nuisance such as spraying and toileting on neighbouring properties and reducing predation. Preventing cats from defecating away from home can also contribute to a reduction in the spread of toxoplasmosis to other animals and people.

Table 3: Other benefits of responsible cat ownership

Benefits of responsible cat ownership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced risk of toxoplasmosis transmission to farmed animals (Aguirre et al., 2019; Stelzer et al., 2019).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased risk of toxoplasmosis transmission to native wildlife (Aguirre et al., 2019).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased predation on native wildlife (Bell & Bell, 2003; Bellingham et al., 2010; Dowding & Murphy, 2001; Imber et al., 2003; Veitch et al., 2011).

Conclusion

Supporting more responsible cat ownership by subsidising the cost of desexing and microchipping cats helps protect cat welfare, breaks the cycle of unplanned kittens born each year, and reduces the number of cats and kittens that either end up in our Centres or remain as stray cats in our communities.

SPCA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Selwyn District Council Council's Long-Term Plan consultation. SPCA is happy to provide further information if needed.



References

- Aguirre, A. A., Longcore, T., Barbieri, M., Dabritz, H., Hill, D., Klein, P. N., Lepczyk, C., Lilly, E. L., McLeod, R., Milcarsky, J., Murphy, C. E., Su, C., VanWormer, E., Yolken, R., & Sizemore, G. C. (2019). The One Health approach to toxoplasmosis: Epidemiology, control, and prevention strategies. *EcoHealth*, 16(2), 387-390. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10393-019-01405-7>
- Alberthsen, C., Rand, J. S., Bennett, P. C., Paterson, M., Lawrie, M., & Morton, J. M. (2013). Cat admissions to RSPCA shelters in Queensland, Australia: Description of cats and risk factors for euthanasia after entry. *Australian Veterinary Journal*, 91(1-2), 35-42. <https://doi.org/10.1111/avj.12013>
- Aronsohn, M. G., & Faggella, A. M. (1993). Surgical techniques for neutering 6- to 14-week-old kittens. *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association*, 202(1), 53-55.
- Banfield Pet Hospital. (2013). *State of Pet Health 2013 Report*. Retrieved from: <https://www.banfield.com/Home/pet-health/State-of-pet-health>
- Bassett, I. E., McNaughton, E. J., Plank, G. D., & Stanley, M. C. (2020). Cat ownership and proximity to significant ecological areas influence attitudes towards cat impacts and management practices. *Environmental Management*, 66(1) 30-41. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-020-01289-2>
- Bell, M., & Bell, D. (2003). The recolonisation of Mangere Island by New Zealand white-faced storm petrels (*Pelagodroma marina maoriana*). *Notornis*, 50(1), 57-58. Retrieved from: <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/publications/the-recolonisation-of-mangere-island-by-new-zealand-white-faced-storm-petrels-pelagodroma-marina-maoriana/>
- Bellingham, P. J., Towns, D. R., Cameron, E. K., Davis, J. J., Wardle, D. A., Wilmshurst, J. M., & Mulder, C. P. H. (2010). New Zealand island restoration: Seabirds, predators, and the importance of history. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, 34(1), 115-136.



- Bushby, P. A., & Griffin, B. (2011). *An overview of pediatric spay and neuter benefits and techniques*. Retrieved from: <https://www.dvm360.com/view/overview-pediatric-spay-and-neuter-benefits-and-techniques>
- Cafazzo, S., Bonanni, R., & Natoli, E. (2019). Neutering effects on social behaviour of urban unowned free-roaming domestic cats. *Animals*, 9(12), Article 1105. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani9121105>
- Companion Animals New Zealand. (2018). *Animal microchip implantation best practice guide*. Retrieved from: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d1bf13a3f8e880001289eeb/t/5fbb1cd4158b28734be7d8bc/1606098220556/Microchip+Implantation+Best+Practice+Guide+2020.pdf>
- Companion Animals New Zealand. (2020). *Companion animals in New Zealand*. Retrieved from: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d1bf13a3f8e880001289eeb/t/5f768e8a17377653bd1eebef/1601605338749/Companion+Animals+in+NZ+2020+%281%29.pdf>
- Dorn, C. R., Taylor, D. O. N., Schneider, R., Hibbard, H. H., & Klauber, M. R. (1968). Survey of animal neoplasms in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California. II. Cancer morbidity in dogs and cats from Alameda County. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 40(2), 307-318. <https://academic.oup.com/jnci/article/40/2/307/929183>
- Dowding, J. E., & Murphy, E. C. (2001). The impact of predation by introduced mammals on endemic shorebirds in New Zealand: A conservation perspective. *Biological Conservation*, 99, 47-64. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0006-3207\(00\)00187-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0006-3207(00)00187-7)
- Farnworth, M. J., Adams, N. J., Seksel, K., Waran, N. K., Beausoleil, N. J., & Stafford, K. J. (2013). Veterinary attitudes towards pre-pubertal gonadectomy of cats: A comparison of samples from New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom. *New Zealand Veterinary Journal*, 61(4), 226-233. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00480169.2012.738591>



- Finkler, H., Hatna, E., & Terkel, J. (2011). The impact of anthropogenic factors on the behavior, reproduction, management and welfare of urban, free-roaming cat populations. *Anthrozoös*, 24(1), 31-49. <https://doi.org/10.2752/175303711X12923300467320>
- Gates, M. C., Walker, J. K., Zito, S., & Dale, A. (2019). A survey of opinions towards dog and cat management policy issues in New Zealand. *New Zealand Veterinary Journal*, 67 (6), 315-322. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00480169.2019.1645627>
- Gilhofer, E. M., Windschnurer, I., Troxler, J., & Heizmann, V. (2019). Welfare of feral cats and potential influencing factors. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior*, 30, 114-123. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jveb.2018.12.012>
- Graf, R., Grüntzig, K., Boo, G., Hässig, M., Axhausen, K. W., Fabrikant, S., Welle, M., Meier, D., Guscetti, F., Folkers, G., Otto, V., & Pospischil, A. (2016). Swiss Feline Cancer Registry 1965-2008: The influence of sex, breed and age on tumour types and tumour locations. *Journal of Comparative Pathology*, 154(2-3), 195-210. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcpa.2016.01.008>
- Gunther, I., Raz, T., Berke, O., & Klement, E. (2015). Nuisances and welfare of free-roaming cats in urban settings and their association with cat reproduction. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, 119(3-4), 203-210. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2015.02.012>
- Gunther, I., Raz, T., & Klement, E. (2018). Association of neutering with health and welfare of urban free-roaming cat population in Israel, during 2012-2014. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, 157, 26-33. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2018.05.018>
- Hall, C. M., Adams, N. A., Bradley, J. S., Bryant, K. A., Davis, A. A., Dickman, C. R., Fujita, T., Kobayashi, S., Lepczyk, C. A., McBride, E. A., Pollock, K. H., Styles, I. M., van Heezik, Y., Wang, F., & Calver, M. C. (2016). Community attitudes and practices of urban residents regarding predation by pet cats on wildlife: An international comparison. *PLoS One*, 11(4), 0151962. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0151962>



- Hamilton, J. B., Hamilton, R. S., & Mestler, G. E. (1969). Duration of life and causes of death in domestic cats: Influence of sex, gonadectomy, and inbreeding. *Journal of Gerontology*, 24(4), 427-437. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronj/24.4.427>
- Hampe, J. F., & Misdorp, W. (1974). Tumours and dysplasias of the mammary gland. *Bulletin World Health Organisation*, 50(1-2), 111-133.
- Hart, B. L., & Cooper, L. C. (1984). Factors relating to urine spraying and fighting in prepubertally gonadectomized cats. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 184(10), 1255-8.
- Hayes, H. M., Milne, K. L., & Mandel, C. P. (1981). Epidemiological features of feline mammary carcinoma. *Veterinary Record*, 108(22), 476-479.
<https://doi.org/10.1136/vr.108.22.476>
- Howe, L. M. (1997). Short-term results and complications of prepubertal gonadectomy in cats and dogs. *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association*, 211(1), 57-62.
- Howe, L. M. (2015). Current perspectives on the optimal age to spay/castrate dogs and cats. *Veterinary Medicine: Research and Reports*, 6, 171-180.
<https://doi.org/10.2147/vmrr.s53264>
- Imber, M. J., West, J. A., & Cooper, W. J. (2003). Cook's petrel (*Pterodroma cookii*): Historic distribution, breeding ecology and effects of predators. *Notornis*, 50(4), 221-230.
Retrieved from: <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/publications/cooks-petrel-pterodroma-cookii-historic-distribution-breeding-biology-and-effects-of-predators/>
- Ito, T., Kadosawa, T., Mochizuki, M., Matsunaga, S., Nishimura, R., & Sasaki, N. (1996). Prognosis of malignant mammary tumor in 53 cats. *Journal of Veterinary Medical Science*, 58(8), 723-726. <https://doi.org/10.1292/jvms.58.723>
- Johnson, A. K., Rault, J. L., Marchant, J. N., Baxter, E. M., & O'Driscoll, K. (2022). Improving young pig welfare on-farm: The Five Domains Model. *Journal of Animal Science*, 100(6), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jas/skac164>



- Joyce, A., & Yates, D. (2011). Help stop teenage pregnancy! Early-age neutering in cats. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, 13(1), 3-10.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfms.2010.11.005>
- Lancaster, E., Rand, J., Collecott, S., & Paterson, M. (2015). Problems associated with the microchip data of stray dogs and cats entering RSPCA Queensland shelters. *Animals*, 5(2), 332-348. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani5020332>
- Lord, L. K., Wittum, T. E., Ferketich, A. K., Funk, J. A., & Rajala-Schultz, P. J. (2007). Search and identification methods that owners use to find a lost cat. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 230(2), 217-220.
<https://doi.org/10.2460/javma.230.2.217>
- Lord, L. K., Griffin, B., Slater, M. R., & Levy, J. K. (2010). Evaluation of collars and microchips for visual and permanent identification of pet cats. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 237(4), 387-394. <https://doi.org/10.2460/javma.237.4.387>
- Kells, N. J. (2021). The Five Domains model and promoting positive welfare in pigs. *Animal* 16(2), Article 100378. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.animal.2021.100378>
- Kent, M. S., Karchemskiy, S., Culp, W. T. N., Lejeune, A. T., Pesavento, P. A., Toedebusch, C., Brady, R., & Rebhun, R. (2022). Longevity and mortality in cats: A single institution necropsy study of 3108 cases (1989-2019). *PLoS ONE*, 17(12), Article e0278199.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0278199>
- Lascelles, B. D. X., Henry, J. B., Brown, J., Robertson, I., Sumrell, A. T., Simpson, W., Wheeler, S., Hansen, B. D., Zamprogno, H., Freire, M., & Pease, A. (2009). Cross-sectional study of the prevalence of radiographic degenerative joint disease in domesticated cats. *Veterinary Surgery*, 39, 535-544. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1532-950X.2010.00708.x>
- Maniaki, E., Murrell, J., Langley-Hobbs, S. J., & Blackwell, E. J. (2021). Associations between early neutering, obesity, outdoor access, trauma, and feline degenerative joint disease. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, 23(10), 965-975.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1098612X21991456>



- Marsh, P. (2010). *Replacing myth with math: Using evidence-based programs to eradicate shelter overpopulation*. Retrieved from:
www.shelteroverpopulation.org/Books/Replacing_Myth_with_Math.pdf
- Marston, L. C., & Bennett, P. C. (2009). Admissions of cats to animal welfare shelters in Melbourne, Australia. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 12(3), 189-213.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10888700902955948>
- Misdorp, W., Romijn, A., & Hart, A. A. (1991). Feline mammary tumors: A case-control study of hormonal factors. *Anticancer Research*, 11(5), 1793-1798.
- National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. (2021). *Evaluation of the Code of Welfare: Pigs*.
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50926/direct>
- New, J. C., Salman, M. D., King, M., Scarlett, J. M., Kass, P. H., & Hutchison, J. M. (2000). Characteristics of shelter-relinquished animals and their owners compared with animals and their owners in U.S. pet-owning households. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 3(3), 179-201. https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327604jaws0303_1
- Nutter, F. B., Levine, J. F., & Stoskopf, M. K. (2004). Reproductive capacity of free-roaming domestic cats and kitten survival rate. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 225(9), 1399-1402. <https://doi.org/10.2460/javma.2004.225.1399>
- O'Neill, D. G., Church, D. B., McGreevy, P. D., Thomson, P. C., & Brodbelt, D. C. (2015). Longevity and mortality of cats attending primary care veterinary practices in England. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, 17(2), 125-133.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1098612X14536176>
- Orr, B., & Jones, B. (2019). A survey of veterinarian attitudes toward prepubertal desexing of dogs and cats in the Australian Capital Territory. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 6, Article 272. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2019.00272>
- Overley, B., Shofer, F. S., Goldschmidt, M. H., Sherer, D., & Sorenmo, K. U. (2005). Association between ovariectomy and feline mammary carcinoma. *Journal of Veterinary*



Internal Medicine, 19(4), 560-563. [https://doi.org/10.1892/0891-6640\(2005\)19\[560:aboafm\]2.0.co;2](https://doi.org/10.1892/0891-6640(2005)19[560:aboafm]2.0.co;2)

Porters, N., de Rooster, H., & Moons, C. P. (2015) Prepubertal gonadectomy in cats: Different injectable anaesthetic combinations and comparison with gonadectomy at traditional age. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* 17(6), 458-467.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1098612X14546919>

Potter, K., Hancock, D. H., & Gallina, A. M. (1991). Clinical and pathologic features of endometrial hyperplasia, pyometra, and endometritis in cats: 79 cases (1980-1985). *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 198, 1427-1431.

Robertson, S., & Lascelles, D. (2010). Long-term pain in cats. How much do we know about this important welfare issue? *Journal of Feline and Medicine Surgery*, 12, 188-199.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfms.2010.01.002>

Root Kustritz, M. V. (1999). Early spay-neuter in the dog and cat. *Veterinary Clinics of North America - Small Animal Practice*, 29(4), 935-943. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0195-5616\(99\)50082-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0195-5616(99)50082-X)

Slingerland, L. I., Hazewinkel, H. A. W., Meij, B. P., Picavet, P., & Voorhout, G. (2011). Cross-sectional study of the prevalence and clinical features of osteoarthritis in 100 cats. *The Veterinary Journal*, 187, 304-309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tvjl.2009.12.014>

Spain, C. V., Scarlett, J. M., & Houpt, K. A. (2004). Long-term risks and benefits of early- age gonadectomy in cats. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 224(3), 372-379. <https://doi.org/10.2460/javma.2004.224.372>

Stelzer, S., Basso, W., Benavides Silván, J., Ortega-Mora, L. M., Maksimov, P., Gethmann, J., Conraths, F. J., & Schares, G. (2019). *Toxoplasma gondii* infection and toxoplasmosis in farm animals: Risk factors and economic impact. *Food Waterborne Parasitology*, 15, Article e0037. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fawpar.2019.e00037>



- Stubbs, W. P., & Bloomberg, M. S. (1995). Implications of early neutering in the dog and cat. *Seminars in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (Small Animal)*, 10(1), 8–12.
- Stubbs, W. P., Bloomberg, M. S., Scruggs, S. L., Shille, V. M., & Lane, T. J. (1996). Effects of prepubertal gonadectomy on physical and behavioral development in cats. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 209(11), 1864-1871.
- van Heezik, Y., Smyth, A., Adams, A., & Gordon, J. (2010). Do domestic cats impose an unsustainable harvest on urban bird populations? *Biological Conservation*, 143(1), 121-130. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2009.09.013>
- Vascellari, M., Baioni, E., Ru, G., Carminato, A., & Mutinelli, F. (2009). Animal tumor registry of two provinces in northern Italy: Incidence of spontaneous tumors in dogs and cats. *BMC Veterinary Research*, 5, Article 39. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1746-6148-5-39>
- Veitch, C. R., Gaskin, C., Baird, K., & Ismar, S. M. H. (2011). Changes in bird numbers on Raoul Island, Kermadec Islands, New Zealand, following the eradication of goats, rats, and cats. In C. R. Veitch, M. N. Clout, & D. R. Towns (Eds.), *Island Invasives: Eradication and Management* (pp. 372-376). Proceedings of the International Conference on Island Invasives, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.
- Yates, D., Yeates, J., & Roberts, M. (2013). Optimum age for neutering cats. *The Veterinary Record*, 172(2), 53-54. <https://doi.org/10.1136/vr.f147>



PROMOTING DESEXING AND MICROCHIPPING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Snip n Chip is a desexing and microchipping service aimed at reducing the number of unwanted and unowned cats — a humane solution for the feline population and welfare management.

Launched nationally in 2022, SPCA's Snip n Chip offers low-cost, accessible desexing and microchipping for cat owners who need it most.

SPCA values working with local councils to increase the number of desexed and microchipped animals in their area and promote responsible pet ownership.

What is Snip n Chip?

- Available through an online system where owners can obtain a voucher to desex and microchip their cat at a heavily discounted rate.
- Designed to educate and promote responsible companion animal ownership by encouraging owners to desex and microchip their animals.
- Encourages owners to develop positive relationships with their local veterinary clinics.

What are the benefits for Councils?

- Promote compliance with Councils cat bylaws
- Reduction in abandonment and euthanasia of cats
- Reduction of feline behaviour issues in the community – noise, fighting, breeding
- Ability to target specific suburbs within the Councils region
- Reduced complaints from residents
- Positive community relations
- Demonstration of commitment to humane reduction of stray, unowned, or unwanted cats and kittens.
- Please see our desexing website for more benefits to both Councils and members of the public <https://desexing.sPCA.nz/councils>

What does the service cost for Councils?

- A set price for each surgery and microchip
- Run as many campaigns as your budget will allow
- Administration and marketing support included
- Regular reporting to allow for greater transparency and reporting back to constituents and councillors

What have been the results?

Since launching in February 2022

- We have desexed 18,947 cats across numerous campaigns
- We estimate this has prevented 75,788 unwanted offspring
- Campaigns selling out in as little as one day
- Positive feedback from local communities for Councils participation
- Four councils and five local board partners have supported Snip n Chip campaigns in their communities

What has been the feedback?

Dr Imogen Bassett, Principal Advisor Biosecurity, Auckland Council

Desexing and microchipping are an important part of our responsible cat ownership work in Tāmaki Makaurau. As the fence at the top of the cliff, snip and chip is good for cats, wildlife, and people. Working together with the SPCA, we can share responsible pet ownership messages with more Aucklanders. The SPCA's online system and helpful staff have made it really easy for us to prioritise our support towards areas with threatened species in need of protection from cats.

Waitaki District Council

Regulatory Manager Andrew Bardsley said “As well as the benefits for cat owners, Snip ‘n’ Chip will have an impact in the community in terms of a reduction in unwanted breeding and the number of orphaned or feral cats. Animal welfare is at the centre of this campaign, with the added benefits of a reduction in nuisance caused by cats and the ability for lost pets to be reunited with their owners through their microchips. The SPCA team’s work is extremely challenging and demanding, so it’s great that Waitaki District Council has been able to contribute towards this partnership and hopefully to reduce some of the cat welfare issues in Waitaki”

Communications Team member Sonia Martinez said “Our residents were really supportive of the campaign and we had lots of positive feedback saying it made a big impact on their ability to get their pet spayed and microchipped. Lots of sharing and engagement on social media not only resulted in the vouchers selling out super quickly but also helped spread the message of responsible cat ownership throughout the district”.

Cat owner feedback:

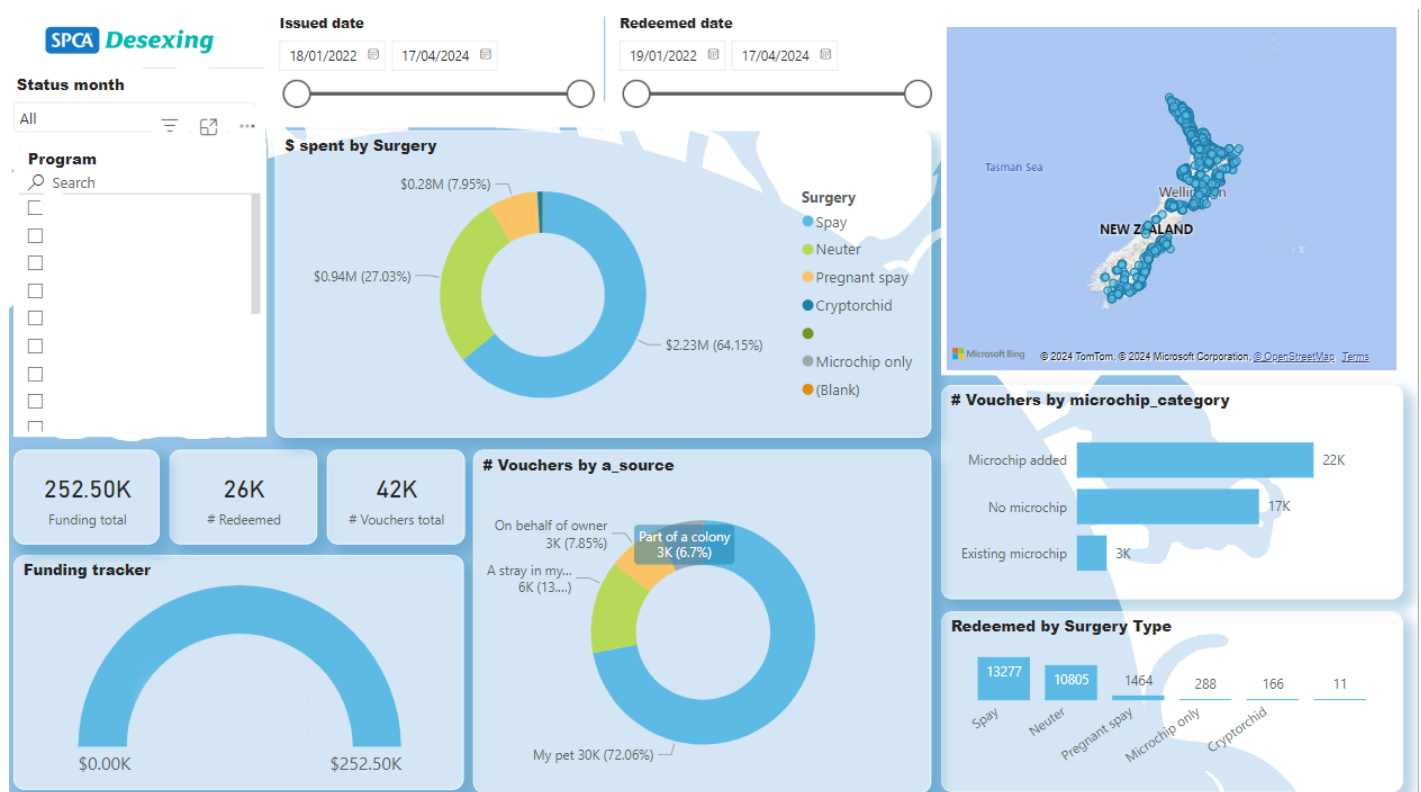
Waitaki resident, Helen, on Facebook said "Thank you so much for this wonderful initiative. I live on a rural property and got a huge surprise when a little wildie/dumped kitten wandered into my kitchen in late January. S/he (I think he's a 'he') has settled into domestic life perfectly. He's staying in the house with another former wildie until I can build an outside house/enclosure for them. The subsidised spaying/neutering is greatly appreciated."

Duration:

- Studies have shown that to make effective change, desexing initiatives should be run regularly over a number of years
- A Campaign funded at \$15k per year over 3 years (\$45k total), could desex 350 cats and prevent thousands of unwanted kittens.

Reporting:

An example of the types of reporting available



SPCA Key Contact:

Contact Name	Title	Phone Number	Email Address
Rebecca Dobson	National Desexing Programmes Manager	027 880 2476	rebecca.dobson@spca.nz

Details of submitter No: 1525 - David Prounting**Submitter:**

David Prounting

1525 – David Pounting

From: David Prouting <[@ com](mailto:@com)>

Subject: SUBMISSION>Sam Broughton and ALL Councillors at the yearly district planning

Date: 4 April 2024 at 10:40:19 am NZDT

To: Sam Broughton <sam.broughton@selwyn.govt.nz>

This is a spurious article.

<https://www.odt.co.nz/star-news/star-districts/star-selwyn/rates-hike-selwyn-residents-hands>

You need to LISTEN to your constituents .This article puts the blame on residents.You made the plans .You make the decisions.The swimming pool in Selwyn is yet another example of a council not listening and continuing on holus bolus despite residents concerns.This current plan smacks of the same.

I am concerned at the apparent inconsideration of the Selwyn District Council and its possible proposed 16(now downgraded a LITTLE it seems) percent unnecessary rates rises- supposedly touted at potentially the highest in the country!.Do you realise that for a pensioner I calculate this rise as a considerable portion of their food bill.zYou are automatically disadvantaging single income people.

I would like the council to answer the following.please asap.

How does the Council think solo parents(and even working ones among these) will afford these rate hikes and keep feeding their children WELL AND PROPERLY>?

Or families?

Or pensioners?

Or even the average family?

Or a single person?

Especially in these days of food price hikes and similar as well as a country in recession.This is the time for Council to tighten its belt .restrict itself to core projects and not become the over lavish squanderer/spender.Has the Council considered tightening its belt as all over the country have had to do?It would seem apparently not.Have they considered taking smaller wages?Why employ more on lavish wages???

Some of the projects above core expenditure are the following.

A number of scholarships.

Revamped Lincoln and leeston town centres.Over fancy architecture.

Proposed sewerage line from Lincoln to Leeston to Rolleston-why not curb unsustainable/unchecked subdivision-*infra structure for subdivision should be self funded by the developer not causing increased funding for the ratepayer.*

Advertising(eg road safety which should be attended to by Govt.regardless of it being a worthy project)

Paying for buildings to be blessed instead of using money for the local community (building ,etc) as nominated by Three Waters Designation.

Walkways. and cycle ways(West Melton walk way having been one example)

Excessive.unnecessarily fancy architecture(library)

I think the following figures are delusional and misrepresentative.Facts and figures that do not meet reality are in short misrepresentative and USELESS.

<https://rep.infometrics.co.nz/selwyn-district/living-standards/household-income>

I think it is time the council stopped ego tripping trying to look like the most advanced council with fancy but unnecessary projects and get in touch with its constituents especially those who would not be on large salaries or the fairy tale figures mentioned above and will not speak up) Unlike council members many people in Selwyn are on low and single incomes and I have spoken to some of these.Even those on higher incomes resent the price hikes(should they reach to 20 percent then the highest in the country).

Fancy walkways.cycle ways .architecture,bus services,park and ride(why live out here if you do not own a car?),libraries.and sports grounds or similar do NOT feed hungry mouths.What is the council's priority.?Its constituents or seemingly grandiose agenda to pander to the more wealthy or its own sense of the grandiose and egotistical achievement?

So at the end of these proposed hikes will Selwyn be the area of the stressed, the impoverished or the area needing more mental health services and such like?It is the old story -does having everything with lots of money make one happy?Clearly the council espouses this opinion.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/sponsored-stories/kids-missing-school-to-feed-families/72C7T5WRHBH63LCCIXADZEAKE/#no_universal_links

While I am on the subject,perhaps the council could do something about the health hazard of the local swimming pool.There is inadequate ventilation at the pool which means excessive condensation(especially in winter) and thus the chlorine cannot escape.I have not returned there after several times coming home nauseated and with headaches.What lack of foresight for such an expensive commodity we all have to pay for.Once again it was a plan that excluded many people's opinion in a council's rush to put its plan ahead of people's views.

The lack of financial foresight,planning and over expenditure in Selwyn district is out of control.No survey has even been done on the rates rise.At least this should be carried out instead of again blindly and delusively blundering on without much constituent input.It is guaranteed not all constituents can turn up to a meeting to give their opinion.Councillors that do not represent the people for one are guaranteed not to be elected as they simply become out of touch and non representative.

What percentage of constituents have been surveyed regarding their opinions on rate rises? And why haven't they?What right do a few elected councillors have to blunder on without recourse to their constituents' opinions as a whole?And would they override these opinions for their own opinions?What funding figures are being released TO THE COMMUNITY for these unnecessary plans?

In times of scarcity one retracts their spending not increases it.The lack of logic in these proposals shows a council that is out of touch and full of fanciful but unrealistic dreaming.As the old adage goes, dream are free,But these dreams need to be put under the scrutiny of reality.The role of council is to serve the community-NOT STRESS IT. Nor gather accolades and garlands for achievements beyond the budgets of the people.

Seemingly then this council needs financial advisors in touch with the reality of life .Councils and Governments are full of plans blown out that could not be finished(look at Selwyn High School for example) Clearly the growth here in Selwyn is unsustainable and like the Council itself need to be brought under reasonable control and restraint so that it cuts its cloth to suit the budget /cloth not inflates its costs to create a " gold and embroidered cloth"budget that is entirely unrepresentative and excessive.

I see no representation of the community as a whole in the rates rise as the community have not been consulted as a whole.Just told.This dictatorial and out of touch manner is not acceptable and needs to be immediately rectified.And plans curbed..Before yet again blindly progressing, put out a survey to ALL constituents.Urgently and asap.Such may restore confidence that this Council is interested in its constituents opinions and not its own plans which certainly are not acceptable in times of need and recession.When others have to tighten their belts let the council show they can set the example.Not be the exception. with "gold plated vanity projects."

Please read this out at the meetings proposed for objections to be heard for this plan on Wednesdays and please notify me it was heard in its ENTIRETY>.Having read it out myself I realise it does fit in the allocated time allowed.It also is a written submission allowed for by booths etc placed around Selwyn District.

Thank you

Yours .Mr DL PROUTING

West Melton