



# Protecting our native wildlife

Photographer: Tim Field  
Latham's Snipe

## Cat management program

The forests, wetlands and other natural areas are part of what makes Sydney Olympic Park special to many people. Over 250 species of native birds, frogs, bats, possums and lizards live in the Park's forests, wetlands and grasslands and many animals and plants are threatened with extinction. Sydney Olympic Park Authority has a legal responsibility to protect wildlife within its jurisdiction.

Predation by feral and domestic cats poses a significant threat to the Park's native wildlife. Most pet owners understand the need to keep cats indoors at night, however cats have been seen roaming freely in natural areas, putting native wildlife at risk. The Authority has developed a Cat Management Program for implementation in Wildlife Protection Areas, in accordance with the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998*.

### What is a Wildlife Protection Area?

A Wildlife Protection Area is land declared by the local authority for the purpose of wildlife conservation, under the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998*. Cats are prohibited in Wildlife Protection Areas and any cats found here may be impounded and owners may be fined.

Under the Authority's Cat Management Program, cats within a Wildlife Protection Area may be impounded and taken to a nearby holding facility where they will be checked for the presence of a microchip or other identification. If an owner can be identified, they will be contacted to collect their cat and pay a fee to the holding facility. If an owner cannot be identified or contacted, the cat will be taken to the pound.

### Looking after your cat

It is best to keep your cat indoors or in a safe outside enclosure, such as a screened porch, and provide it with entertainment such as a window seat, scratching post, shelves, boxes and toys. Indoor cats live for 12 years on average while life expectancy of outdoor cats is less than 5 years, due to encounters with traffic, diseases, dogs, other cats, wild animals, poisons, parasites and other hazards. At a minimum, keep your cat inside at night. This ensures your cat is safe and comfortable and not hunting wildlife.

Ensure your cat can be identified by a collar or microchip, and that owner details are current. Fines may apply for breach of the legislation.

Visit [safeandhappycats.com.au](https://safeandhappycats.com.au) for more information.

## Wildlife Protection Area

Wildlife Protection Area declared by Sydney Olympic Park Authority under the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998* (cats are prohibited from these areas).

