

Cat's Space

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Wild Ocelot Sends Moggies into a Spin

While filming a documentary on animal welfare several years ago, Paul Bok became aware of the astonishing number of cats that were being euthanased in Australia and around the world each year.

He was so appalled that he set his mind to finding a way to help reduce the number of unwanted pets and consequently the number being put down.

The result was the **Oscillot Cat Containment System** which will help keep cats safer and healthier without interfering with their natural urge to roam.

"While the official statistics were distressing enough", says Paul "they didn't even take into account all the other unwanted kittens that are undoubtedly disposed of in other possibly much less humane ways."

"So I began to look at ways to tackle this primary problem – the production every year of tens of thousands of unwanted litters of kittens"

But it soon became clear that there were a number of other problems that would benefit from a humane, non-electronic cat containment system that was safe, effective and affordable.

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Paul's wife Leonie with their cat Frishka

Fast Facts:

- Increasing numbers of Local and State governments are introducing cat control laws including strict curfews
- Statistically, cats that are contained in their owners' property, live an average 8 to 10 years longer than free-roaming cats

No Pussyfooting Around Alarming Cat Statistics **RSPCA Statistics will Shock Cat Lovers**

The latest available annual national statistics from RSPCA Australia paint a bleak picture for Australia's cat population, and have prompted the organisation to reiterate its call for mandatory desexing of cats and dogs.

Between July 1 2006 and June 30 2007, RSPCA Australia accepted 58,480 cats from the community.

While this was a fall of almost 4.5% on the previous year, only 25,137 of these (or less than 43%) were reclaimed or rehomed.

< *Moggies in a Spin*

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"I discovered that pet cats which can roam outside their own yard have a dramatically shorter life span than cats kept indoors because of their exposure to such things as road traffic, dog attacks, and even poison baits. On average, an inside cat lives for twelve years. By comparison, an outdoor cat's life expectancy is around three years."

"But I also knew that keeping a cat indoors goes against its natural instinct to roam and explore."

Paul focused on a way to keep

cats safe and happy in their own backyard without the use of runs, tunnels or cages.

Over a number of years, he developed and refined 'Oscillot' - a system based on the 'slippery pole' principle.

It consists of a simple four-bladed 'paddle' between two small end posts which can be mounted on top of most standard fences.

Cats cannot get a foothold on the top of the fence and are thus unable to get over it.

"Containing your cat in your own yard has many other benefits including the prevention of cross-infections of serious diseases between cats and cats and humans and minimising the impact

of roaming cats on native wildlife.

"On top of that, Oscillot allows easy compliance with tougher control measures such as curfews increasingly being introduced by local councils and state governments to encourage responsible cat ownership."

So Oscillot not only keeps your cat in and other cats out but at the same time addresses many other problems associated with cat ownership, not least of which is the potential for disputes with neighbours who object to other people's cats entering their yards.

For a more detailed and illustrated explanation of how Oscillot works visit the website at

www.efitel.com/~oscillot.

Recent ACT cat legislation changes

Cats are one of the most popular domestic companion animals and they form an integral part of our society.

Cat policy in the ACT is aimed at ensuring the rights of domestic cats and their owners as well as providing the means by which cats are responsibly owned and managed so that they might not cause a nuisance or danger to the wider community and the environment.

Do I have to register my cat?

No. Registration of cats is not considered necessary as they do not pose the same threats to human health and safety as dogs.

Microchipping of cats at point of sale became compulsory in the ACT from 1 May 2008

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DIY? Yes you can!!

To borrow from 'Bob the Builder' - can you install Oscillot? Yes, you can!

The system has been designed for ease of installation allowing most average handypersons to install it.

Put simply, it requires attaching a series of paddles and end brackets to the top of your solid fence or wall.

We are in the process of refining a set of clear, easy to understand instructions, which will be supplied with your order.

They will also be available on our website soon.

There you will also find an interactive problem solving and advice facility.

And if you'd really rather have someone else install Oscillot for you, we intend

to appoint a network of accredited installers once our product is readily available.



Self aligning bearings makes installing Oscillot a breeze For the DIY handyperson

OSCILLOT Cat Containment System

PRICE LIST*

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Oscillot 2.4 metre Paddle (Colorbond®) 16 available colours. | \$36 |
| Oscillot Components Pack includes: 2 x end posts and bearing housing with screw caps (matt chrome plated) 2 x paddle end cap & axle units (matt chrome plated) 2 x tension springs 2 x bearings 2 x metal post mounting blocks 4 x metal cutting tek screws 4 x plastic masonry plugs 4 x timber screws | \$30 |
| Oscillot Corner Cone Assembly (Colorbond®) 16 available colours | \$42 |
| Oscillot Tree Guards 600 mm X 1200 mm (Colorbond®) 16 available colours | \$30 |
| Oscillot Tree Guards 600 mm X 2400 mm (Colorbond®) 16 available colours | \$48 |
| Oscillot Post & Rail Flashing 350 mm X 2400 mm (Colorbond®) 16 available colours | \$36 |
| * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prices are ex Albury NSW • prices exclude GST • prices exclude delivery ** Prices are subject to change without notice. | |
| **Delivery charges depend on weight of order and distance from Albury NSW | |



CAT
CONTAINMENT
SYSTEM

Let your cat roam.... At home!

How Much Space is Enough for your Cat?



Some containment products can still not give cats much freedom and also detract from the look of your garden

The short answer is: 'As much as you can possibly provide!'

Cats were born to roam, and to allow them to do so freely but safely should be foremost in a responsible cat owner's mind.

While some cats are brought up as 'indoor' cats and are therefore quite comfortable in a confined space, any cat that's been allowed to spend time outdoors will pine for that freedom if it's denied.

Cat containment products such as cages and tunnels don't actually create a lot of 'roaming' space and because they still direct the cat along specific paths and within artificial boundaries they have an element of 'unnaturalness'

Netting solutions can be difficult to install, are not very attractive-looking, and are prone to damage by animals, birds and adverse weather.

Oscillot on the other hand allows your cat to roam freely throughout your property, no matter how big or small.

It does so in a way that is simple, cost-effective, easy to install, and unobtrusive.

Oscillot will give you the peace of mind that your cat can happily follow its instincts to explore but will be safe from harm.

RSPCA's Shocking Statisticscontinued from page 1

| State or Territory | Number reclaimed or rehomed | % reclaimed or rehomed | Control Legislation status |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACT | 1408 | 55% | See story on page 2 |
| NSW | 6094 | 38% | In place |
| NT | 422 | 35% | No Legislation |
| QLD | 6836 | 40% | Under Public Consultation |
| SA | 1687 | 37% | Draft Legislation |
| Tas | 1490 | 53% | Draft Legislation |
| WA | 688 | 86% | Draft Legislation |
| Vic | 5676 | 42% | In place |



The Oscillot Cat Containment System can protect cats from the dangers that lurk outside their yard

"we are still facing a huge problem with cat owners not desexing their pets, not microchipping their pets and not claiming them when they go missing"

RSPCA Australia CEO Heather Neil said that while an increase of 3.8% on the number of cats that had been reclaimed or rehomed in FY05/06 was a significant achievement, the number of stray, unwanted and surrendered cats coming to RSPCA Australia was still far too high.

"These statistics do show our efforts to educate pet owners and the wider community and to encourage responsible practices are having an effect," said Ms Neil.

"However, we are still facing a huge problem with cat owners not desexing their pets, not microchipping their pets and not claiming them when they go missing," she said.

Ms. Neil said there was a simple reason for Australia's cat overpopulation.

"While Australia has one of the highest levels of pet ownership in the world, we are still breeding more

animals than we can find good homes for".

"Therefore, we desperately need to work from the other side of the equation and reduce the number of cats we receive," said Ms Neil. RSPCA Victoria CEO Maria Mercurio said "As an organisation focused on the welfare and protection of animals, the need to unnecessarily euthanase thousands of healthy cats is a practice that our staff and volunteers find extremely distressing."

SEE FULL STORY AT RSPCA AUSTRALIA SITE

<http://www.rspca.org.au/mediareleases/mr.asp>

Recent ACT cat legislation changescontinued from page 2

Do I have to identify my cat?

Yes. Cats do need to wear identification so that they can be returned to their owner if found. Cats can be identified by a collar and tag that identifies the owners contact number or address. Microchipping of Cats at point of sale will be compulsory in the ACT as at 1 May 2008. All cats in the ACT are to be Microchipped by 30 April 2011.

Do I need to de-sex my cat?

If your cat is born before 21 June 2001, you will not have to de-sex your cat.

If your cat is born on or after 21 June 2001, it is compulsory to have it de-sexed unless you apply for a 'Permit to Keep a Sexually Entire Animal'. Contact Domestic Animal Services to obtain a permit.

What is a cat curfew?

A cat curfew can be declared in a suburb, or area of a suburb, if there is a serious nature conservation threat as a result of cat activities. During a cat curfew, cat owners must confine their animals to their premises. The curfew can also specify the times during which cats must be confined.

I live near a nature reserve, does this mean my cat has to be confined at all times?

The only time you will be required to confine your cat is during a cat curfew. This will only happen if there is a particular and serious nature conservation threat that has been caused by cats in that area. However, it is recommended that you take steps to confine your cat to your property whenever possible. Your neighbours are entitled to lodge a complaint if your cat causes an animal nuisance that affects them or their property.

take steps to
confine your cat
to your property
whenever
possible.

Domestic Animal Services
Territory and Municipal
Services (TAMS)—
Australian Capital Territory

See how they Run!

Have you ever marveled at the agility and speed of your cat when it scales a fence or wall?

“ Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound” it would seem.

Actually cats will rarely leap cleanly over anything unless they are certain of what's on the other side.

When scaling a fence or wall they actually jump, run and grab at the top of the obstacle. They are able to move so quickly that it often seems like one gliding action.

High speed video camera footage actually reveals that cats are constantly using their running action to gain whatever claw traction they can on the surface they are climbing.

Once able to get on top of the fence or wall, most cats will cautiously survey the other side before descending.

They are also amazingly good at walking along on top of a capless iron fence like the most skilled tight-rope walkers in a circus.



Benny shows off his effortless tight-rope style



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We're on the web!

www.eftel.com/~oscillot



Let your cat roam.....at home!

What's in the Name?

By its nature, we obviously wanted our product name to have some connection with felines.

So we played around with Ocelot- a smallish but strong wild cat found in the Americas and the word 'oscillate' which has some relevance to the rotational nature of the paddle which forms the critical part of our system.

Combine 'Ocelot' and 'oscillate' and you get 'Oscillot'!!

Install Oscillot in your yard, and your cat will be happy as an ocelot in the wild, free to follow its roaming instincts without getting into trouble.

What's more, like a contented cat, you'll be basking in the satisfaction of knowing you're doing your bit for animal welfare and the environment in general.!



Ocelot

Photo: AuburnCom

World Eagerly Awaits Oscillot Launch



Oscillot's inventor Paul Bok demonstrates an early prototype to ABC "New Inventors" host James O'Loghlin in 2007



The self-aligning bearing assembly of the soon to be launched commercial version of the Oscillot system

We have been quite overwhelmed by the interest in Oscillot ever since the prototype development of the system was featured on the Australian Broadcasting Commission's show 'The New Inventors' nearly a year ago.

From every State and Territory in Australia, from the UK, USA, New Zealand and even Singapore, potential users have been clamouring for **Oscillot's** release on to the market.

We can honestly assure you we have moved things along as best we could.

However, we have discovered there are many obstacles which lie between an inventor having an idea, and making that idea a reality as a marketable product .

Our chief concern was to ensure that our clients would be getting a reliable product. To this end, we spent quite some time improving the design and functionality through further rigorous testing as well as on-going consultation with design and manufacturing engineers.

We also tried as a matter of company policy to source all components within Australia.

Unfortunately, with some parts we were unable to achieve this.

We are awaiting the arrival from China of a shipment of components, and we now anticipate being in a position to deliver the Oscillot system by late July/early August.

To the many of you who have placed an indicative order with us, we apologise for the further, but unavoidable delays.

We're sure you'll understand we are committed to supplying you with the best possible product at the best possible price.