

# Tough new laws to control stray cats

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**EXCLUSIVE:** Joe Spagnolo

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**EXCLUSIVE: CAT owners in WA will be forced to sterilize and microchip their cats under new legislation.**

Premier Colin Barnett confirmed yesterday he had instructed Liberal MP Joe Francis, a life member of the RSPCA, to begin drafting new cat laws.

Mr Barnett said the move followed a visit to the Shenton Park Cat Haven last year.

Mr Francis said yesterday the forced sterilization and micro-chipping of the animals would be key components of a Bill expected to be introduced into parliament before the end of the year.

He could no longer tolerate a situation where thousands of domestic cats were euthanized each year, he said.

Mr Francis said the mandatory de-sexing and micro-chipping of cats was necessary to cut the numbers of unwanted cats.

“What's happening now is genocide,” Mr. Francis said.

“It is the senseless slaughter of cats that could be prevented.

“Walk into the Cat Haven one day and walk into the room where they are being put down.

“You will walk out in tears after hearing the screams of those little kittens.

“Kittens should not be a disposable item.

“They shouldn't be put to sleep because they were an unwanted Christmas present.”  
RSPCA spokesman Richard Barry yesterday applauded the move.

“We are over the moon with this,” Mr. Barry said.

“In WA there are about 10,000 cats and kittens euthanized each year.

“Ninety-five per cent of cats are de-sexed by responsible owners.

“It's those other 5 per cent of irresponsible owners who are the problem. Cats can reproduce

every three to four months and can have up to four and eight kittens.

“This is great news for animal welfare and potentially for the rest of Australia, who will no doubt tune in to see how WA handles this complex issue.”