Semi-owned Cat Attitudes and Behaviours in South Australia

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report details key findings from research into community attitudes and behaviours towards semi-owned and stray cats, conducted by the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute on behalf of the Cat and Dog Management Board.

The research involved telephone interviews with randomly recruited respondents across South Australia. A total of 603 respondents completed the survey. The response rate of approximately 50% is a positive indicator that non-response is not unduly influencing the research results.

The broad aim of this research was to identify and understand the incidence of semi-owned cat carers, as well as the attitudes and perceptions of the wider community towards such semi-owned cats. The specific objectives and findings related to these objectives are outlined here.

**Identify the proportion of the South Australian population engaging in semi-ownership behaviours towards cats.**

Results show that five percent (n=32) of respondents were engaging in semi-ownership behaviours towards cats at the time of being surveyed. A further 21% (n=128) of respondents had semi-owned a cat in the past but ceased doing so before being surveyed. Thus, 26% (n=160) of respondents had semi-owned a cat at some point in time. This figure was slightly higher than the incidence found in the Victorian study of 22%. The main reason for past cat semi-owners ceasing the behaviour was because the cat disappeared or died (48%, n=61); signalling this was not an intended choice in many cases. In another 29% (n=37) of cases, someone took full ownership of the cat. A further question was asked relating to other people in a household that were semi-owning a cat if the respondent themselves did not. Three percent (n=19) of respondents had another householder semi-owning, of which only 5 respondents had useable data about the other party. Therefore, this group has not reported on.

Slightly less than half of current semi-owners were feeding just the one cat (47%, n=15). For those feeding more than one cat, questions relating to the behaviour were asked in relation to the oldest cat or the cat that had been fed the longest. Six in ten (n=19) semi-owners believed the cat they were feeding was fully owned by someone else. This in turn had a degree of influence over the frequency of feeding. Overall, feeding of semi-owned cats was a very frequent and routine behaviour occurring most often every day or on alternate days. This trend was stronger for cats that were thought to be strays, whereas feeding of cats thought to be owned by someone else was subject to irregularity in some cases. Just over half (56%, n=18) of current semi-owners had only recently begun the behaviour, sometime between the last week and previous six-months. However, 30% (n=10) had been doing so for over a year. Less than two in ten (16%, n=5) semi-owners had desexed the cat, whilst a further 25% (n=8) indicated there was no need because the cat had already been desexed.

As for future intentions towards the semi-owned cat, only three in ten were planning to change their current behaviour; two of which intended to take full ownership of the cat and the other intended to take it to an animal shelter. For those not intending to do either of these things, the main reason provided was “it’s not mine”. Further analysis revealed that all of these respondents either believed the cat was owned by someone else or were uncertain if it had an owner, i.e., the cat was not considered a stray. This explained their reluctance to take action.

**Determine the demographic profile of those engaging in cat semi-ownership behaviour.**

Overall the results indicated that there were no clear discriminating demographic characteristics by which to identify semi-owners of cats. The main finding was that respondents who fully owned a cat were much more likely to semi-own a cat than people that did not fully own a cat.
To ascertain community perceptions and understanding of stray and un-owned cat related issues and public opinion on various management options for cats in South Australia. To investigate whether such perceptions and opinions differ between metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australia.

Respondents were presented with a number of statements to which they could agree or disagree. The statements were divided into two groups: 1) General statements about semi-owned and stray cats, and 2) Cat management issues.

Agreement was measured using a five-point scale from strongly agree (5) to strongly disagree (1). Therefore, to interpret mean response values; as the value increases (i.e., approaches five) this indicates a higher level of agreement with the statement, values close to three indicate neutrality and closer to one indicate disagreement.

The results are presented in the two summary tables below. The ‘All’ column indicates the mean response across the whole sample. Statements are ordered from the highest level of agreement to the lowest (i.e., the greatest level of disagreement). Details of the proportional distribution of respondents across agreement categories are seen in the full report.

The sample was then split into metropolitan and regional respondents to see if there were differences across the geographic segments. Regional respondents were classified as living outside a 30-kilometre radius surrounding the CBD. Statistically significant (p<0.05) differences are highlighted in grey. Regional/rural respondents were slightly more likely to agree with the following statements, increasing the mean value.

- “South Australia currently has more un-owned (stray) cats than owned cats”
- “Un-owned cats live as long as owned cats”

**Results: Means for general cat statements across metropolitan and regional respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Metro</th>
<th>Regional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stray cats should be taken to a shelter if no one can take full ownership of them</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA currently has more cats than there are homes available for them</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA currently has more un-owned (stray) cats than owned cats</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cats live long and happy lives entirely indoors</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is okay to feed stray cats, even if you don’t take full responsibility for them</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Un-owned cats live as long as owned cats</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Un-owned cats are generally as healthy as owned cats</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were no statistically significant differences between metropolitan and regional respondents for cat management statements.

**Results: Means for cat management statements across metropolitan and regional respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Metro</th>
<th>Regional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There should be a limit on the number of cats kept on any premises</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desexing all cats (with exceptions) should be compulsory</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat registration should be mandatory</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night time curfews should be imposed on all owned cats</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council officers should have the power to seize any cat found wandering</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If respondents were unsure, this was also a valid response and was recorded as a ‘Don’t know’. Some of the general statements received high proportions of ‘Don’t know’ responses, these included:

- “South Australia currently has more un-owned (stray) cats than owned cats” (40%)
- “Un-owned cats live as long as owned cats” (24%)
- “South Australia currently has more cats than there are homes available for them” (22%)

These results suggest that these were areas that people had not thought about or considered fully.

To determine the level of awareness of the services provided by CATS Inc. and the proportion of the population who have used the services of CATS Inc. for stray or un-owned cats.

Seventeen percent of respondents were aware of CATS Inc.; top-of-mind awareness was at two percent, whilst prompted awareness was at 15%. A third of respondents that were aware of CATS Inc. had used its services in the past, representing 6% (n=34) of the whole sample. Only one in four of respondents used CATS Inc. for an un-owned cat, representing 1% (n=8) of the whole sample.
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INTRODUCTION

This report details key findings from research into community attitudes and behaviour towards semi-owned and stray cats, conducted by the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute on behalf of the Cat and Dog Management Board. The broad aim of this research was to identify and understand the incidence of semi-owned cat carers, as well as the attitudes and perceptions of the wider community towards such semi-owned cats.

The specific objectives of the research were to:
- Identify the proportion of the South Australian population engaging in semi-ownership behaviours towards cats.
- Determine the demographic profile of those engaging in cat semi-ownership behaviour.
- To ascertain community perceptions and understanding of stray and un-owned cat related issues and public opinion on various management options for cats in South Australia. Then to investigate whether such perceptions/opinions differ between metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australia.
- To determine the level of awareness of the services provided by CATS Inc. and the proportion of the population who have used the services of CATS Inc. for stray or un-owned cats.

The report is divided into four main sections to separately address each of the above objectives.

The research was a partial replication of a prior research project conducted in Victoria in 2005 regarding companion and semi-owned animals. Where possible, we have drawn comparisons between the Victorian study and South Australia results.
METHODOLOGY

The research involved conducting telephone interviews with randomly recruited respondents across South Australia. A total of 603 respondents completed the survey. The Electronic White Pages was used to generate random call lists for the state. To further ensure an entirely random sample and avoid the known skew to females that occurs with telephone interviewing, interviewers asked to speak to the person in the household whose birthday (irrespective of birth year) fell closest to the interview date.

When recruiting, quotas were set for metropolitan and regional based groups within the sample to reflect the distribution of the population in South Australia – 70% metropolitan and 30% regional. Regional respondents were classified as living outside a 30-kilometre radius surrounding the CBD. The metropolitan sample comprised 419 respondents whilst the regional sample comprised 184 respondents. Where relevant, analysis was conducted across these geographic segments and the differences between them were outlined.

The response rate was approximately 50%. This is significantly higher than alternative methodologies such as online, or mail surveys. As a rule-of-thumb, having a response rate below 50% runs the risk of non-response bias impacting on the research results.

As the sample was randomly derived to be representative of the state, the figures quoted in this report are projectable to the population of South Australia.
INCIDENCE OF SEMI-OWNED CAT BEHAVIOUR

The primary objective of the research was to ascertain the prevalence of semi-owned cat behaviour within the South Australian population. The 2005 Victorian study found that 22% of its sample engaged in cat semi-ownership activities, e.g., provide veterinary care, feeding, desexing, etc. Feeding was found to be the most common activity (93%). However, the Victorian study did not discriminate between people that were engaged in the behaviour at the time of being surveyed or had done so in the past: “Indicate which of the following (activities) you do or have done in the past for any cat(s) you do not own.”

In our research, cat semi-ownership was defined as: a cat fed by the respondent but he/she did not consider himself/herself the owner. It was also made clear that cat sitting or minding at the request of a family member, friend or neighbour did not constitute semi-ownership. Respondents were firstly asked if they were currently semi-owning a cat, and if the response was no, had they ever done so in the past but ceased doing so. Hence, current semi-owners and past semi-owners were captured as two distinct groups. Results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Incidence of cat semi-ownership – Current and past behaviour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results indicate that only 5% of respondents were semi-owning a cat at the time of being surveyed. A further 21% had semi-owned a cat in the past but no longer. Put together, roughly one in four people (26%) semi-owned a cat at some point in time. This figure is slightly higher than the result of the Victorian study of 22%. However, given the confidence intervals surrounding the samples, we cannot say there is a statistically significant difference. Rather, the South Australian result replicates that of Victoria. This is to be expected. There is little intuitive reason why semi-ownership behaviour should vary significantly by state. The ownership levels of cats is comparable – 11 per 100 people in Victoria and 14 per 100 in South Australia in 2007 (Australian Companion Animal Council). It is reasonable to expect semi-ownership would also be similar.

We do not have any further information about past semi-ownership feeding beyond why it stopped; see Table 2. Responses were unprompted by the interviewer.

Table 2: Reasons for ceasing cat semi-ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It disappeared or died</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone I know took full ownership</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I took full ownership</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved house</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot recall</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I took it to pound</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not want to keep feeding it</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was the neighbour’s</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone I know took it to pound</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The main reason for stopping the behaviour was not in the control of the semi-owner; the cat merely did not return to be fed. In around 30% of cases someone (either the respondent or someone known to the respondent) took full-ownership of the cat, which is a positive outcome.
A further question was asked relating to other people in a household that were semi-owning a cat if the respondent themselves did not. Only three percent (n=19) of respondents had another householder doing the behaviour, four of which were also feeding the cat themselves, so no further information was gathered about the other party. In relation to the remaining 15 respondents, because the decision to collect information about the other householders was made just before the mid-point in data collection, there is only information about the feeding and demographics for five respondents. This sample is far too small to provide an adequate picture of this group so no analysis was done.

**Cat semi-ownership feeding behaviour**

Current semi-owners were asked a series of questions relating to the feeding behaviour. Firstly, semi-owners were asked how many cats they were feeding; see Table 3.

**Table 3: Number of cats fed by current semi-owners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four or more</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It varies / Unsure</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results were skewed towards feeding only a small number of cats, with almost half of semi-owners feeding only one cat.

To make it easier for respondents that semi-owned multiple cats (n=17), the interviewer requested that the following questions were answered in relation to the oldest cat, or alternatively, the cat they had fed the longest. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they believed someone else owned the cat or if it had no owner (i.e., it was a stray). If they did not know either way, this was also a valid response.

**Table 4: To the best of your knowledge, is this cat …**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owned by someone else</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has no owner</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Six in ten cat semi-owners believed that the cat was fully owned by another person.

Respondents were asked how long they had been feeding the semi-owned cat (Table 5).

**Table 5: Length of cat semi-ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 week to 6 months</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 months to 1 year</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 1 year</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results were divided – Six in ten semi-owners had only started the behaviour recently (within the previous six months) yet three in ten semi-owners had been feeding the cat for more than a year. However, it is possible that recent semi-owners would continue the current behaviour into the future; therefore one cannot assume these results indicate that cat-semi ownership is only a short-term commitment. This is especially so considering the results of future intentions, reported in the following section.

Semi-owners were asked how often they fed the cat. The Victorian study revealed there were differences in the frequency of behaviour if the cat was known to have an owner or considered a stray. Cats that were owned by
someone else were more often fed daily or irregularly (results were polarised), whereas stray cats were most often fed on alternate days. The results from our research have been reported in the same fashion for sake of comparison (Table 6).

**Table 6: Frequency of feeding semi-owned cats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All semi-owners (n=32)</td>
<td>Someone else’s (n=19)</td>
<td>Has no owner (n=8)</td>
<td>Unsure (n=5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate days</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a month</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than once a month</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It varies too much to say</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Once a fortnight was included in the response set but no semi-owners fed the cat once a fortnight.

Looking at all semi-owners (Column A), the clear majority of semi-owners fed the cat frequently and regularly – Either daily or on alternate days. Splitting respondents into groups on the basis of perceived ownership, semi-owners who believed they were feeding a stray cat (Column C) were more likely to feed on a frequent and regular basis (daily and alternate days) than a semi-owner feeding a cat owned by someone else (Column B). Those feeding someone else’s cat were still highly likely to be engaged in high frequency feeding, but there was also evidence of irregular feeding, which was not so for strays.

Overall, the frequency of feeding semi-owned cats in South Australia was higher than in Victoria – Daily feeding in Victoria was particularly much lower; at 30% for cats owned by someone else, and 13% for strays. There is no clear reason for this difference.

Respondents were asked if they had desexed the semi-owned cat (Table 7).

**Table 7: Have you desexed the semi-owned cat?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was already de-sexed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only five cat semi-owners had taken the cat to be desexed. Four of these cats were considered to be strays and, at the time of being surveyed, the semi-owner had fed the cat for more than a year.

Half of semi-cat owners, however, had not desexed the cat.
**Intentions for future semi-ownership behaviour**

Current cat semi-owners were then asked their intentions towards the animal; were they planning to take full ownership of the cat? Only two in ten current cat semi-owners intend to take full ownership (Table 8). These respondents were then asked the reason why they were taking full-ownership of the cat; the interviewer did not prompt for responses. Two thirds (n=4) felt it was the right thing to do, one respondent felt sorry for the cat, and the other was unable to articulate a reason. Four of these cats were thought to be un-owned cats. The majority of semi-owners however, did not intend to take full ownership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure at the moment</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Those that were not intending to take ownership of the cat or were unsure if they would take ownership were asked the reason for this also; see Table 9. The interviewer did not prompt for responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It's not mine</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to existing pets</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's happy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most would not because it wasn’t theirs – “It’s not mine”. All of these respondents (n=14) believed that someone else owned the cat or were unsure if it had an owner, i.e., they did not believe it was a stray. This explains the reluctance to claim ownership of what was possibly somebody else’s pet. In relation to the second most prevalent response, people that were unable to take full ownership of the cat due to existing pets were specifically worried that the pet would not accept the cat or that the cat would transfer an illness to the pet due to possibly being unvaccinated. ‘Other’ responses varied widely: One respondent was going on an overseas holiday, one felt they couldn’t take on a pet due to their own mortality, one was trying to find the cat a home and another couldn’t take ownership because they ‘couldn’t get close to it’.

Respondents that weren’t taking full ownership were then asked if they intended to take the cat to an animal welfare shelter or pound; see Table 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure at the moment</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semi-owners intending to take the cat to a shelter/pound were in the minority. The reasons for doing so included: Because it’s the right thing to do (n=1), it’s a nuisance (n=1) and one person was unable to articulate a reason.

Those that were not intending to take the cat to a shelter/pound or were unsure were asked the reason for this also; see Table 11. The interviewer did not prompt for responses.
The main reason for not taking the semi-owned cat to a shelter was because it wasn't their cat. Once again, all of these respondents (n=17) believed that someone else owned the cat or were unsure if it had an owner, i.e., they did not believe it was a stray.

‘Other’ reasons included the same respondent that was looking for someone else to take full ownership (failing that they would take it to a shelter) and one respondent was fearful to take it to a shelter because they believed it would be put to sleep.

Overall, approximately 70% of cat semi-owners (n=23) didn’t intend to change their behaviour by taking full ownership of the cat or taking it to a shelter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It’s not mine</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot get close to it</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF CAT SEMI-OWNERS

Overall the following results show that there are no clear discriminating demographic characteristics by which to identify semi-owners of cats. The main finding was that respondents who fully owned a cat as a pet were much more likely to semi-own a cat than people that did not fully own a cat. Cat semi-owners were also slightly more likely to be female, live in a country town and were lower income earners (and less likely to be working full-time), but these are not drivers of semi-ownership behaviour.

To explain the tables below, each demographic variable is reported for five groups. The first four columns of each table relate to semi-ownership behaviours towards cats. Each group is of a different size, indicated in Table 12, with the demographic segments (e.g., male versus female) calculated as a proportion of that group. The two left-most columns provide a demographic profile of current and past semi-owners as two distinct groups. The third column amalgamates the two groups to be as one, i.e., people that have ever semi-owned a cat. The ‘Never’ column reports the demographic profile of respondents that have never semi-owned a cat. The final right-most column reports the demographic of the entire sample, i.e., people that have ever semi-owned a cat and that have never semi-owned a cat. The final three columns are highlighted in yellow because they are the focus of the discussion. Cells that are highlighted in grey indicate a +/- five or more percentage point difference between cat semi-owners and the whole sample. If the spread for semi-owners reflects that for the sample, this indicates that proportionately semi-owners of a demographic segment are no more likely to engage in the behaviour than the numbers would expect them to. We will compare the spread of respondents of semi-owners against the spread for the entire sample and discuss any differences of note.

**Gender**
Cat semi-owners are predominantly female. This largely reflects the skew of the sample, although it is slightly more pronounced. Therefore, it is slightly more likely that a female will semi-own a cat than a male, but this is not a driver of semi-ownership.

*Table 12: Gender (%)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Current (n=32)</th>
<th>Past (n=128)</th>
<th>Semi-owned (n=160)</th>
<th>Never (n=443)</th>
<th>Sample (n=603)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Age**
The distribution of respondents across age groups for semi-owners and non semi-owners was very close to that of the sample. Semi-owners had a slightly higher proportion of younger respondents (18-25 years of age) largely due to past semi-owners. Therefore, the results indicate that no particular age bracket identifies cat semi-owners.

*Table 13: Age (%)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Semi-owned</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-35</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-45</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-65</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66+</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Metropolitan and regional locations
Looking across metropolitan and regional groups only, there was almost no difference between cat semi-owners and those that had never-semi owned or the sample. Once each of these groups was divided into more specific areas, it became apparent that semi-owners were slightly more likely to skew towards living in small country towns than others, particularly for current semi-owners. However, this is relatively minor, and not an identifier of cat semi-owners.

Table 14: Metropolitan versus rural (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Semi-owned</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional / Rural</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 15: Metropolitan versus rural – Breakdown (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Semi-owned</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban (Inner city)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban (+10kms from city)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional city (pop. &gt;10,000)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country town (pop. &lt;10,000)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural (+20 acres)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-rural (&lt;20 acres)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Household make-up
The spread of respondents was very similar across all groups; therefore the number of occupants in a household does not seem to influence semi-ownership behaviour. Current semi-owners have a significantly higher proportion of respondents that are living without a partner and/or children. While this trend does seem to hold across the entire semi-owned sample, the extent of the skew for current owners is likely to be a function of sampling fluctuation from having just 32 respondents rather than a real difference of this magnitude.

Table 16: Household make-up (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Semi-owned</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single, no children living at home</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single, with one or more children at home</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single, with one or more children at home</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single, with young and older children at home</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married/living with partner, no children living at home</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married/living with partner, with one or more children at home</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married/living with partner, with one or more children at home</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married/living with partner, with young and older children at home</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed/Widower</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Employment status

Semi-owners were not identifiable by a particular employment or study status. It is slightly less likely that a semi-owner is working full-time, but once again, this is a minor difference.

Table 17: Employment status (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Semi-owned</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working full-time</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working part-time</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying full-time</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying part-time</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working and studying</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time home duties</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioner (not old age)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual household income

The distribution of respondents across earning brackets for semi-owners and non semi-owners was very close to that of the sample. Semi-owners had a slightly higher proportion of low-income earners (less than $50,000 per annum). However, household income is not a strong identifier of cat semi-owners, the vast majority of which reflect the skew of the whole sample.

Table 18: Annual household income (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Semi-owned</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $50,000</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,001 to $75,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,001 to $100,000</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,001 to $125,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$125,001 to $150,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,001 to $200,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $200,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ownership of companion animals

The results indicate that cat semi-owners were much more likely to fully own a cat than people that had never semi-owned or for the whole sample. Of all demographic variables, this was the strongest difference found between groups. This was not the case with dog ownership (Table 20). Ownership of dogs was proved to be proportionally similar across semi-owners, respondents that had never semi owned and the entire sample.

Table 19: Semi-ownership and full ownership of cats (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Semi-owned</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Own a cat</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t own a cat</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 20: Semi-ownership and full ownership of dogs (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Semi-owned</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Own a dog</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t own a dog</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY ATTITUDES

Respondents were presented with a number of statements to which they could agree or disagree. Agreement was measured using a five-point scale, whereby: 1=Strongly disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neither agree nor disagree (neutral), 4=Agree and 5=Strongly agree. If respondents were unsure, the response was recorded as a ‘Don’t know’ and controlled for when calculating means for each statement. During interviews, the order of the statements was randomised to avoid “wear out” effects.

In the following section, each statement is discussed, looking at the spread of responses across the five-point scale that underlie the mean score. The results are presented using percentages, but data tables have been attached as an appendix that includes the raw numbers if desired. The statements are divided into two groups:

General statements about semi-owned and stray cats; which reflect the level of knowledge respondents had about owned and semi-owned/stray cats, and perceptions of behaviours towards strays. These included:

- “South Australia currently has more cats than there are homes available for them”
- “South Australia currently has more un-owned (stray) cats than owned cats”
- “Un-owned cats are generally as healthy as owned cats”
- “It is okay to feed stray cats, even if you don’t take full responsibility for them”
- “Un-owned cats live as long as owned cats”
- “Stray cats should be taken to an animal shelter if no one can take full ownership of them”
- “Cats live long and happy lives entirely indoors”

Cat management issues; these are proposed methods to monitor the number and well being of cats in South Australia. These included:

- “Cat registration should be mandatory”
- “There should be a limit on the number of cats kept on any premises”
- “Night time curfews should be imposed on all owned cats”
- “Council officers should have the power to seize any cat found wandering”
- “De-sexing all cats (with exceptions) should be compulsory”

At the end of each set of statements, there will be a summary table reporting the means for each statement for different groups within the sample. As one of the objectives, metropolitan and regional/rural segments will be compared to see if there are any differences in knowledge and attitudes. Additionally, we have also looked between groups of semi-owners and non semi-owners, cat owners and non-cat owners, dog owners and non-dog owners and males and females to see if there are differences.
General statements about semi-owned and stray cats

Overall, respondents were skewed towards agreeing with the following statements:

- "Stray cats should be taken to a shelter if no one can take full ownership of them" (Mean = 4.2)
- "South Australia currently has more cats than there are homes available for them" (Mean = 4.0)
- "South Australia currently has more un-owned (stray) cats than owned cats" (Mean = 3.6)

On average, respondents were neutral regarding: "Cats live long and happy lives entirely indoors" (Mean = 2.9). However, respondents were split almost evenly around the mean; half either agreed or disagreed.

Whereas respondents were slightly more skewed towards disagreeing with the following statements:

- "It is okay to feed stray cats, even if you don’t take full responsibility for them" (Mean = 2.4)
- "Un-owned cats live as long as owned cats" (Mean = 2.4)
- "Un-owned cats are generally as healthy as owned cats" (Mean = 2.1)

"South Australia currently has more cats than there are homes available for them"

![Figure 1: South Australia currently has more cats than there are homes available for them](image1)

There was a definite strong skew towards agreement, including a smaller proportion strongly agreed. Interestingly, this statement had a relatively high proportion of people responding ‘Don’t know’. Two in ten respondents were unsure of the appropriate response; indicating this was an area that people had not thought about or considered.

"South Australia currently has more un-owned (stray) cats than owned cats"

![Figure 2: South Australia currently has more un-owned (stray) cats than owned cats](image2)

For this statement there was more of a spread across responses but results were still skewing to agree, affecting the mean. There was an even higher proportion of respondents saying ‘Don’t know’ – Four in ten. Generally this shows that South Australians are not very informed or aware of the numbers of cats or stray cats in the state, and therefore do not feel they can provide an opinion.
“Un-owned cats are generally as healthy as owned cats”

The vast majority of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement – Respondents were more inclined to think that stray cats are not as healthy as owned cats.

“It is okay to feed stray cats, even if you don’t take full responsibility for them”

Results are slightly polarised; respondents are somewhat divided in their attitudes towards this statement with almost one in four respondents agreeing that it is okay to feed stray cats without taking responsibility. However, there is a stronger skew towards disagree and strongly disagree.

“Un-owned cats live as long as owned cats”

Results are predominantly skewed to disagree with this statement, although a minority do agree. This is another statement with one in four respondents answering ‘Don’t know’.
“Stray cats should be taken to a shelter if no one can take full ownership of them”

Figure 6: Stray cats should be taken to an animal shelter if no one can take full ownership of them

The results show a very strong skew to agreement for this statement, with the highest proportion of ‘strongly agree’ responses for all general statements.

“Cats live long and happy lives entirely indoors”

Figure 7: Cats live long and happy lives entirely indoors

Respondents were divided in relation to this statement. The mean indicates neutrality but this is not the case. The results are very polarised, with almost equal and opposite numbers strongly/agreeing or strongly/disagreeing that cats can live contently solely indoors.

We were further interested in whether there was variation between different groups in how they answered each of the statements. Respondents were split by: where they lived, ownership of cats or dogs, semi-ownership of cats and gender. Analysis involved the use of statistical tests (ANOVAS) to determine significant differences between group means. The results for the first battery of statements are presented in Table 21. The ‘All’ column reports the means across all respondents, as were reported in the charts above. The statements are ordered from the strongest level of agreement through to the strongest level of disagreement. Grey highlighted cells indicate that the two groups were significantly different (p<0.05) in their mean response.

It must be noted that dog ownership is not included in Table 21 because there were no statistically significant differences between the mean response of dog owners and non-dog owners for all general statements.
Table 21: General statements – Means summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Metro</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Cat</th>
<th>No cat</th>
<th>SO*</th>
<th>Never SO*</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stray cats should be taken to a shelter if no one can take full ownership of them</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA currently has more cats than there are homes available for them</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA currently has more un-owned (stray) cats than owned cats</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cats live long and happy lives entirely indoors</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is okay to feed stray cats, even if you don’t take full responsibility for them</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Un-owned cats live as long as owned cats</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Un-owned cats are generally as healthy as owned cats</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*SO = Semi-owned

For the first set of general statements there were more similarities than differences between groups. In the majority of cases the differences, although statistically significant, were small ones; shifting the mean only 0.2 of a scale point.

**Metropolitan and regional/rural groups:** Regional/rural respondents were slightly more likely to agree with the following statements, increasing the mean value.
- “South Australia currently has more un-owned (stray) cats than owned cats”
- “Un-owned cats live as long as owned cats”

**Cat ownership:** Respondents that own a cat were slightly more likely to agree with the following statements than respondents that do not currently fully own a cat:
- “Cats live long and happy lives entirely indoors”
- “It is okay to feed stray cats, even if you don’t take full responsibility for them”

**Cat semi-ownership:** The largest differences were determined by cat semi-ownership behaviour. Respondents that semi-owned cats were slightly more likely to agree that “cats live long and happy lives entirely indoors” than respondents that hadn’t engaged in this behaviour. This likely reflects that the majority of cat semi-owners are also full cat owners, thereby influencing the result in the same direction as full cat owners. A much bigger difference was found for: “it is okay to feed stray cats, even if you don’t take full responsibility for them”. There was almost one full scale-point difference between groups. Those that had semi-owned cats were more in favour of this statement, resulting in a neutral response on average. However, looking at the distribution, there is high polarisation of the results, with 31% in strong agreement or agreement and 35% in strong disagreement or disagreement. This is not an entirely surprising result, as people that have engaged in the behaviour would be more accepting or supportive of it compared to people that have not done so. Respondents that had not engaged in the behaviour were more likely to disagree, reducing the mean to a value less than neutral (disagreement).

**Gender:** Females were slightly more likely to agree “stray cats should be taken to a shelter if no one can take full ownership of them” than males. On the other hand, males were more likely to agree “un-owned cats live as long as owned cats” and “un-owned cats are generally as healthy as owned cats”, but the means were still closer to disagreeing with both statements, particularly the latter statement.
Cat management issues

Overall, all statements relating to cat management issues skewed strongly towards agreement – The vast majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed methods to monitor the number and well being of cats in South Australia. The strongest agreement was for “there should be a limit on the number of cats kept on any premises” (Mean = 4.3), followed closely by “desexing all cats (with exceptions) should be compulsory” (Mean = 4.1).

“Cat registration should be mandatory”

![Figure 8: Cat registration should be mandatory]

Results show a strong skew to agreement; eight in ten respondents agreed or strongly agreed. There was a minority that disagreed, which consisted of almost equal proportions of cat owners and cat non-owners (i.e., not only cat owners disagree with this statement at their financial expense).

“There should be a limit on the number of cats kept on any premises”

![Figure 9: There should be a limit on the number of cats kept on any premises]

There was an extremely strong level of agreement with this statement. All respondents provided an opinion and almost all of them agreed or strongly agreed. This cat management proposition was the most strongly supported of all the management statements.
“Night time curfews should be imposed on all owned cats”

Figure 10: Night time curfews should be imposed on all owned cats

Very similar to the cat registration statement, results show a strong skew to agreement; eight in ten respondents agreed or strongly agreed.

“Council officers should have the power to seize any cat found wandering”

Figure 11: Council officers should have the power to seize any cat found wandering

This statement received the highest proportion of respondents in disagreement of all the management statements, although it was only two in ten that were doing so. Overall, the results still skewed to agreement.

“De-sexing all cats (with exceptions) should be compulsory”

Figure 12: De-sexing all cats (with exceptions) should be compulsory

Results show a strong skew to agreement; eight in ten respondents agreed or strongly agreed.
Table 22 presents the differences between groups exactly the same as Table 21. Once again, there were no statistically significant differences between the mean response of dog owners and non-dog owners for all cat management statements, and therefore these results were not included in the table below.

**Table 22: Options for cat management – Means summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Metro</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Cat</th>
<th>No cat</th>
<th>SO</th>
<th>Never SO</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There should be a limit on the number of cats kept on any premises</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desexing all cats (with exceptions) should be compulsory</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat registration should be mandatory</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night time curfews should be imposed on all owned cats</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council officers should have the power to seize any cat found wandering</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here we see that the greatest number of differences is driven by cat ownership status.

**Metropolitan and regional/rural groups:** There were no significant differences between the mean responses for each of these groups.

**Cat ownership:** Generally, cat owners were less positive towards each of the management statements than non-owners but (as a group) results were still skewed to agreement for the following statements.

- “There should be a limit on the number of cats kept on any premises”
- “Desexing all cats (with exceptions) should be compulsory”
- “Cat registration should be mandatory”
- “Night time curfews should be imposed on all owned cats”

The largest difference of all management statements and groups was for: “council officers should have the power to seize any cat found wandering” between cat owners and non-owners. The average response for cat non-owners was in agreement, whereas the average response for cat owners was neutral. A greater proportion of cat owners disagreed with the statement (31%) compared to cat non-owners (14%). This is probably due to the alleviated risk that owned cats might be seized along with stray cats too, which would cause anxiety for cat owners.

**Cat semi-ownership:**

Cat semi-owners were slightly less likely to agree to the statement “there should be a limit on the number of cats kept on any premises” than respondents that had not semi-owned a cat. Semi-owners were also slightly less likely to agree to cats being seized by council officers. This was a similar but less pronounced result than for cat owners. It is likely full cat owners were more attached to their pets than semi-owners were to their charges.

**Gender:** Females were slightly more likely to agree with the following statements than males:

- “Desexing all cats (with exceptions) should be compulsory”
- “Night time curfews should be imposed on all owned cats”

Following the battery of general and cat management statements, respondents were asked if they had ever had reason to complain to the council about a cat related issue. No further information was collected regarding the nature of the complaint.

**Table 23: Incidence of cat related complaints**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only one in ten respondents had made a complaint to his/her council, indicating a very low incidence.
CATS INC.

The final objective of the research was to determine the level of community awareness of the services provided by CATS Inc. and the proportion of the population who have used the services of CATS Inc. for stray/un-owned cats. Awareness of CATS Inc. was 17%.

To ascertain the level of top-of-mind awareness for CATS Inc. respondents were asked where they would take a cat to be desexed, being the primary service provided by CATS Inc. Respondents could only specify one place and this response was not prompted by interviewers. Nine out of ten respondents nominated a vet to desex a cat. Two percent of respondents nominated CATS Inc., which indicates the level of top-of-mind awareness.

Table 24: Where would you take a cat that had to be desexed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vet</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSPCA / Animal Welfare League</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATS Inc.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents that did not think of CATS Inc. for desexing a cat were asked if they had heard of CATS Inc. Prompted awareness for CATS Inc. was 15% of the sample population.

Table 25: Awareness of CATS Inc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>% (Aware)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unprompted</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prompted</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaware</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Those that indicated they were aware of CATS Inc. (unprompted and prompted, n=104) were asked if they had used the services of CATS Inc. before. A third that were aware of CATS Inc. had used its services, representing 6% of the sample population.

Table 26: Incidence of CATS Inc. usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>% (Aware)</th>
<th>% (Sample)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Users of CATS Inc were asked a follow-up question: “When you used the services of CATS Inc. was it for an owned or un-owned cat?” One in 4 people that had used the services of CATS Inc. did so for an un-owned cat, but this behaviour is exhibited by only 1% of the entire sample.

Table 27: Using CATS inc. for owned versus un-owned cats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>% (Used)</th>
<th>% (Sample)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owned</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Un-owned</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# APPENDIX

## Data tables for attitudinal responses

**South Australia currently has more cats than there are homes available for them (Chart 1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / Refused</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**South Australia current has more un-owned (stray) cats than owned cats (Chart 2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / Refused</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Un-owned cats are generally as healthy as owned cats (Chart 3)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / Refused</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**It is okay to feed stray cats, even if you don’t take full responsibility for them (Chart 4)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / Refused</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Un-owned cats live as long as owned cats (Chart 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / Refused</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stray cats should be taken to an animal shelter if no one can take full ownership of them (Chart 6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / Refused</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cats live long and happy lives entirely indoors (Chart 7)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / Refused</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cat registration should be mandatory (Chart 8)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>%</th>
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<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know / Refused</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
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There should be a limit on the number of cats kept on any premises (Chart 9)

<table>
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<th>%</th>
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<td>53</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
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Night time curfews should be imposed on all owned cats (Chart 10)

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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Strongly disagree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Council officers should have the power to seize any cat found wandering (Chart 11)

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<tr>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>Strongly disagree</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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De-sexing all cats (with exceptions) should be compulsory (Chart 12)

<table>
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<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
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<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUESTIONNAIRE

Question # 1  Page # 1
Good afternoon/evening, my name is .......... from the University of South Australia. We are conducting research about cats. You do not need to own a cat to be able to participate as the research is about your opinions on cat management.

Could I please speak to the person whose birth date falls closest to today's date and who is at least 18 years old?

The questionnaire will take approximately 8 minutes to complete. Is now a convenient time to speak to you?

-Check List- (Number of items: 3 Min: 1 Max: 1)  
1  Continue  
2  Respondent not home - schedule call back  
3  Refusal - thank and terminate

Question # 2  Page # 2
Ask all
First of all, do you currently own any cats?

-Check List- (Number of items: 2 Min: 1 Max: 1)  
1  Yes  
2  No

Question # 3  Page # 3
Ask all
Do you currently feed any cats that you are not the owner of? We are looking for cats they feed but don't consider themselves to be the owner of rather than cat sitting or pet minding for neighbour/friend/family. These people are what we call 'semi-owned' cat people

-Check List- (Number of items: 2 Min: 1 Max: 1)  
1  Yes  
2  No
Question # 4 Page # 4
If feeding cats they don't own
How many cats are you currently feeding that you do not own?

-Check List- (Number of items: 12  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1 One
2 Two
3 Three
4 Four
5 Five
6 Six
7 Seven
8 Eight
9 Nine
10 Ten or more
11 It varies
12 Unsure/refused

SKIPS from Q4
IF q3=1  SKIP TO: 0

Question # 5 Page # 5
Ask all that are not current semi-owners from Q3
In the past, have you ever fed a cat that you were not the owner of?
Again, exclude cat minding. We are looking for behaviour that has stopped but was done in the past

-Check List- (Number of items: 2  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1 Yes
2 No

SKIPS from Q5
IF q3=2  SKIP TO: 0

Question # 6 Page # 6
If fed semi-owned in the past only
Why did you stop feeding the cat that you weren't the owner of?
Response is UNPROMPTED.

-Check List Open- (Number of items: 8  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1 I took it to a shelter/pound
2 I took full ownership of it
3 It disappeared or died
4 Someone I know took it to a shelter/pound
5 Someone I know took full ownership of it
6 Can't recall
7 Refused
8 Other (specify)  <<

SKIPS from Q6
IF (q3=2)&(q5=1)  SKIP TO: 0
Question # 7  Page # 7
Ask all
Is there anyone else in your household that owns or feeds a cat?
If more than one person, choose the household member who has the most cats or is most cat involved

-Check List-  (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Yes, owns a cat
2  Yes, feeds but doesn't own the cat
3  Yes owns cats and also feeds not owned
4  No, no one else does
5  I live alone
6  Unsure/refused

Question # 8  Page # 8
Ask all who have householders that fed semi-owned cat if don't have feed/own cat themself
How long have they fed the cat that they are not the owner of?
Just get an estimate

-Check List-  (Number of items: 5  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  1 week to 6 months
2  7 months to 1 year
3  More than 1 year
4  Unsure
5  Refused

SKIPS from Q8
IF (q2=2)&(q3=2)&((q7=2)|(q7=3))  SKIP TO: 0

Question # 9  Page # 9
All with householders with semi-owned if don't have feed/own cat themself
How many cats does this person feed?

-Check List-  (Number of items: 12  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  One
2  Two
3  Three
4  Four
5  Five
6  Six
7  Seven
8  Eight
9  Nine
10  Ten or more
11  Unsure
12  Refused

SKIPS from Q9
IF (q2=2)&(q3=2)&((q7=2)|(q7=3))  SKIP TO: 0
Question # 10    Page # 10
All with householders with semi-owned cats if don't have feed/own cat themself
How often do they feed the cat(s)?

-Check List-  (Number of items: 8    Min: 1    Max: 1)
1  Everyday
2  Every other day
3  Once a week
4  Once a fortnight
5  Once a month
6  Less than once a month
7  Unsure
8  Refused

SKIPS from Q10
IF (q2=2)\&(q3=2)\&((q7=2)||(q7=3)) SKIP TO: 0

Question # 11    Page # 11
All with householders with semi-owned cats if don't have feed/own cat themself
Is this person who feeds these cats male or female?

-Check List-  (Number of items: 3    Min: 1    Max: 1)
1  Male
2  Female
3  Refused

SKIPS from Q11
IF (q2=2)\&(q3=2)\&((q7=2)||(q7=3)) SKIP TO: 0

Question # 12    Page # 12
All with householders with semi-owned cats if don't have feed/own cat themself
And which age bracket would this person fall into? Would it be (read out options until category reached)

-Check List-  (Number of items: 7    Min: 1    Max: 1)
1  18-25
2  26-35
3  36-45
4  46-55
5  56-65
6  66+
7  Refused

SKIPS from Q12
IF (q2=2)\&(q3=2)\&((q7=2)||(q7=3)) SKIP TO: 0
Question # 13  Page # 13
Just for semi-owned cat people
The following questions are about the cat that you feed but do not own.

If you currently feed more than one cat that you do not own, please answer these questions thinking just about
the OLDEST cat, or the cat that you have been feeding the LONGEST.

-Check List-   (Number of items: 1       Min: 1     Max: 1)
1  Continue

    SKIPS from Q13
    IF q3=1  SKIP TO: 0

Question # 14  Page # 14
Just for semi-owned cat people
To the best of your knowledge, is this cat ...

-Check List-   (Number of items: 4       Min: 1     Max: 1)
1  Owned (by someone else)
2  Has no owner
3  Don’t know (do not read)
4  Refused (do not read)

    SKIPS from Q14
    IF q3=1  SKIP TO: 0

Question # 15  Page # 15
Just for semi-owned cat people
How long have you fed this cat that you do not own?

-Check List-   (Number of items: 5       Min: 1     Max: 1)
1  1 week to 6 months
2  7 months to 1 year
3  More than 1 year
4  Unsure
5  Refused

    SKIPS from Q15
    IF q3=1  SKIP TO: 0
Question # 16  Page # 16
Just for semi-owned cat people
How often do you feed the cat?

-Check List-  (Number of items: 8  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Everyday
2  Every other day
3  Once a week
4  Once a fortnight
5  Once a month
6  Less than once a month
7  It varies too much to say
8  Unsure/refused

SKIPS from Q16
IF q3=1  SKIP TO: 0

Question # 17  Page # 17
Just for semi-owned cat people
Have you desexed this cat?

-Check List-  (Number of items: 4  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Yes
2  No
3  It was already desexed
4  Refused

SKIPS from Q17
IF q3=1  SKIP TO: 0

Question # 18  Page # 18
Just for semi-owned cat people
Do you plan to take full ownership of this cat?

Interviewer note: For instance, microchip, desex, provide veterinary care for the cat.

-Check List-  (Number of items: 4  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Yes
2  No
3  Unsure at the moment
4  Refused

SKIPS from Q18
IF q3=1  SKIP TO: 0
Question # 19  Page # 19
If intending to take ownership
What is your reason for taking full ownership of this cat?

Response is UNPROMPTED.

-Check List Open- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  It's the right thing to do
2  I feel sorry for it
3  The kids wanted it
4  Unsure
5  Refused
6  Other (specify) «»

SKIPS from Q19
IF (q3=1)&(q18=1) SKIP TO: 0

Question # 20  Page # 20
If not intending to own
What is your reason for not taking full ownership of this cat?
Response is UNPROMPTED.

-Check List Open- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  It's not mine
2  Cost involved
3  It's happy
4  Unsure
5  Refused
6  Other (specify) «»

SKIPS from Q20
IF (q3=1)&((q18=2)|(q18=3)) SKIP TO: 0

Question # 21  Page # 21
All with semi-owned
Do you plan to take this cat to an animal welfare shelter or pound?

-Check List- (Number of items: 4  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Yes
2  No
3  Unsure
4  REFused

SKIPS from Q21
IF (q3=1)&((q18=2)|(q18=3)|(q18=4)) SKIP TO: 0
Question # 22  Page # 22
If yes to pound
What is your reason for taking this cat to an animal welfare shelter or pound?
Response is UNPROMPTED.

-Check List Open- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  It's the right thing to do
2  I feel sorry for it
3  It is a nuisance
4  Unsure
5  Refused
6  Other (specify) «»

SKIPS from Q22
IF (q3=1)&(q21=1) SKIP TO: 0

Question # 23  Page # 23
If no to pound
What is your reason for not taking this cat to an animal welfare shelter or pound?
Response is UNPROMPTED.

-Check List Open- (Number of items: 7  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  It's not mine
2  Cost involved
3  It's happy
4  I feel sorry for it
5  Unsure
6  Refused
7  Other (specify) «»

SKIPS from Q23
IF (q3=1)&((q21=2)|(q21=3)) SKIP TO: 0

Question # 24  Page # 24
Ask all
Now I would like to read you a number of statements about cats in general. Please indicate how you feel about each of the statements. I would like you to tell me how much you agree or disagree with each one.

-Check List- (Number of items: 1  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Continue

Question # 25  Page # 25
Ask all
South Australia currently has more cats than there are homes available for them.
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly

-Check List- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Strongly disagree
2  Disagree
3  Neither agree nor disagree
4  Agree
5  Strongly agree
6  Don't know/Refused (Do not read)
Question # 26  Page # 26
Ask all
South Australia currently has more unowned (stray) cats than owned cats.
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly?

-Check List- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1 Strongly disagree
2 Disagree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree
5 Strongly agree
6 Don't know/Refused (Do not read)

Question # 27  Page # 27
Ask all
Unowned cats are generally as healthy as owned cats.
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly?

-Check List- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1 Strongly disagree
2 Disagree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree
5 Strongly agree
6 Don't know/Refused (Do not read)

Question # 28  Page # 28
Ask all
It is okay to feed stray cats, even if you don't take full responsibility for them.
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly?

-Check List- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1 Strongly disagree
2 Disagree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree
5 Strongly agree
6 Don't know/Refused (Do not read)

Question # 29  Page # 29
Ask all
Unowned cats live as long as owned cats.
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly?

-Check List- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1 Strongly disagree
2 Disagree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree
5 Strongly agree
6 Don't know/Refused (Do not read)
Question # 30  Page # 30
Ask all
Stray cats should be taken to an animal shelter if no one is able to take full ownership of them. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly

-Check List- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Strongly disagree
2  Disagree
3  Neither agree nor disagree
4  Agree
5  Strongly agree
6  Don’t know/Refused (Do not read)

Question # 31  Page # 31
Ask all
Cats live long and happy lives entirely indoors. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly

-Check List- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Strongly disagree
2  Disagree
3  Neither agree nor disagree
4  Agree
5  Strongly agree
6  Don’t know/Refused (Do not read)

Question # 32  Page # 32
Ask all
Now I would like to read you some more statements relating to options for cat management. Please indicate how you feel about each of the statements using the same agree/disagree scale as before.

-Check List- (Number of items: 1  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Continue

Question # 33  Page # 33
Ask all
Cat registration should be mandatory. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly?

-Check List- (Number of items: 6  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Strongly disagree
2  Disagree
3  Neither agree nor disagree
4  Agree
5  Strongly agree
6  Don’t know/Refused (Do not read)
Question # 34 Page # 34
Ask all
There should be a limit on the number of cats kept on any premises. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly?

-Check List- (Number of items: 6 Min: 1 Max: 1)
1 Strongly disagree
2 Disagree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree
5 Strongly agree
6 Don't know/Refused (Do not read)

Question # 35 Page # 35
Ask all
Nighttime curfews should be imposed on all owned cats. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly?

-Check List- (Number of items: 6 Min: 1 Max: 1)
1 Strongly disagree
2 Disagree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree
5 Strongly agree
6 Don’t know/Refused (Do not read)

Question # 36 Page # 36
Ask all
Council officers should have the power to seize any cat found wandering. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly?

-Check List- (Number of items: 6 Min: 1 Max: 1)
1 Strongly disagree
2 Disagree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree
5 Strongly agree
6 Don’t know/Refused (Do not read)

Question # 37 Page # 37
Ask all
Desexing all cats (with exceptions) should be compulsory. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Would that be (Dis) agree or (dis) agree strongly?

-Check List- (Number of items: 6 Min: 1 Max: 1)
1 Strongly disagree
2 Disagree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
4 Agree
5 Strongly agree
6 Don’t know/Refused (Do not read)
Question # 38 Page # 38
Ask all
Have you had reason to complain to your local council about cat related issues?

-Check List- (Number of items: 3 Min: 1 Max: 1)
1 Yes
2 No
3 Unsure/refused

Question # 39 Page # 39
Ask all
If you had a cat that needed desexing, where would you take it? Unprompted. single response

-Check List Open- (Number of items: 6 Min: 1 Max: 1)
1 Local vet
2 RSPCA / Animal Welfare League
3 CATS Inc
4 Unsure
5 Refused
6 Other (specify) « »

SKIPS from Q39
IF q39=3 SKIP TO: 41

Question # 40 Page # 40
If not heard of CATS Inc
Have you ever heard of the services provided by Cats Assistance to Sterilise (CATS Inc)?

-Check List- (Number of items: 4 Min: 1 Max: 1)
1 Yes
2 No
3 Unsure
4 Refused

Question # 41 Page # 41
If heard of CATS Inc
Have you ever used the services provided by Cats Assistance to Sterilise (CATS Inc)?

-Check List- (Number of items: 3 Min: 1 Max: 1)
1 Yes
2 No
3 Unsure/refused

SKIPS from Q41
IF (q39=3)&&(q40=1) SKIP TO: 0
Question # 42  Page # 42
If used CATS Inc
When you used the services of CATS Inc, was it for an owned or unowned cat?

-Check List-  (Number of items: 3  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Owned
2  Unowned
3  Unsure/refused

SKIPS from Q42
IF (q41=1)  SKIP TO: 0

Question # 43  Page # 43
Ask all
Do you currently own any dogs?

-Check List-  (Number of items: 3  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Yes
2  No
3  Refused

Question # 44  Page # 44
Ask all
Does anyone else in your household own a dog?

-Check List-  (Number of items: 3  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Yes
2  No
3  Refused

Question # 45  Page # 45
Finally, I just need to ask a couple of questions to ensure we have talked to a good cross section of people.

By observation

-Check List-  (Number of items: 2  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  Male
2  Female

Question # 46  Page # 46
Which of the following age categories would you fall into?

-Check List-  (Number of items: 7  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1  18-25
2  26-35
3  36-45
4  46-55
5  56-65
6  66+
7  Refused (do not read)
Which of the following best describes your household make-up?

Interviewer note: By young children, we mean someone under 16 years of age.

-Check List-  (Number of items: 10  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1 Single, no children living at home
2 Single, with one or more young children at home (no older)
3 Single, with one or more older children at home (no younger)
4 Single, with young and older children living at home
5 Married/living with partner, no children living at home
6 Married/living with partner, one or more young children
7 Married/living with partner, one or more older children
8 Married/living with partner, with young and older children
9 Widowed/widower
10 Refused (do not read)

Are you currently...

-Check List-  (Number of items: 10  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1 Working full-time
2 Working part-time
3 Studying full-time
4 Studying part-time
5 Both working and studying
6 Retired
7 Engaged in full-time home duties
8 Unemployed/Not currently working or studying
9 On a pension (other than age pension)
10 Refused (do not read)

And which of the following would best capture your combined household income before tax?

-Check List-  (Number of items: 9  Min: 1  Max: 1)
1 Less than $50,000
2 $50,001 to $75,000
3 $75,001 to $100,000
4 $100,000 to $125,000
5 $125,000 to $150,000
6 $150,001 to $200,000
7 Over $200,000
8 Unsure (do not read)
9 Refused (do not read)

Ask all
Do you live in metropolitan Adelaide or in a regional area?
If they live in any of the suburbs of Adelaide they are metro. Look for 85, 86 87 and 88 as regional phone numbers
-Check List- (Number of items: 3 Min: 1 Max: 1)
1 Adelaide & metro
2 Regional SA
3 Refused

Question # 51 Page # 51
Would you describe where you live as ...
Read out options

-Check List- (Number of items: 7 Min: 1 Max: 1)
1 Urban (inner city)
2 Suburban (+10kms from city)
3 Regional city (population of +10,000)
4 Country town (population less than 10,000)
5 Rural (+20 acres)
6 Semi-rural (less than 20 acres)
7 Refused (do not read)

Question # 52 Page # 52
What is the postcode of your current residential address?
Enter -1 if they refuse

-Dbase- (Number of items: 2)
Postcode:
«Integer: -1 ≤ i ≤ 10000 »

Question # 53 Page # 53
Ask all
Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this research – the information you've given is very valuable to us and I appreciate the time you have taken to talk to me.
As part of our quality control, my supervisor may call you back to just confirm that this interview took place and for this purpose can I just check a few details...

-Dbase- (Number of items: 10)
First name
«Text Variable»
Phone
«Text»
Postcode
«Text»
Interviewer ID
«Text Variable»
Date
«Text Variable»