

Paw outcome? New Zealand council proposes banning all cats

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| <p>Notes & Cues:</p> | <p>Article:</p> <p>A regional council in New Zealand has proposed banning all domestic cats in an attempt to protect native animals.</p> <p>Environment Southland’s “pest plan” calls for all domestic cats in the region to be neutered, microchipped and registered. Then, when a cat dies, residents would not be permitted to have another.</p> <p>Ali Meade, the council’s biosecurity operations manager, said that if the move was approved the improvement for the environment and bird life would be vast.</p> <p>Omaui resident Nico Jarvis told the Otago Daily Times that she was shocked and planned a petition against the plan. She said that her three cats were the only way to combat a rodent problem in the area. “If I cannot have a cat, it almost becomes unhealthy for me to live in my house, ” she said.</p> <p>Jarvis likened the plan to living in a “police state ... It’s not even regulating people’s ability to have a cat. It’s saying you can’t have a cat.”</p> <p>The move comes as New Zealand works on an ambitious goal to become predator-free by 2050. That plan is devoted to wiping out introduced species of rats, stoats and possums.</p> <p>Economist turned parliamentary candidate Gareth Morgan has long proposed wiping out cats from New Zealand as a way to protect native species from what he called “natural born killers”.</p> |
| <p>Summary:</p> | |