

**MEDIA RELEASE      CAT CRISIS COALITION (an alliance of all Victorian Animal Welfare Shelters).**

**Conference. 11 am Monday April 23. Lort Smith Animal Hospital, Villiers St. North Melbourne.**

Workers at Victoria's Animal Welfare Shelters are sick and tired of being the community's executioners.

Each year shelter staff is forced to put down more than 30,000 cats, most of them healthy kittens. It appears climate change is adding the problem as the current run of warm weather has all of the shelters inundated with unwanted cats.

The shelters are united in their view that the current situation is appalling, unethical and unacceptable and believe the only solution is the compulsory desexing of all pet cats.

Quite simply not enough people are desexing their pets.

The shelters are calling on all local councils to make desexing mandatory. They are also calling on pet owners to desex their pets.

The MYCAT incentive scheme is offered to any council which introduces mandatory desexing for cats.

Through MYCAT the shelters will subsidize any council which makes desexing compulsory in order to help people who cannot afford to desex their cat. The total cost of desexing to the owner will be just \$50.

Desexed cats are less likely to suffer from anti-social behaviours such as spraying or, more seriously, fighting which can lead to expensive veterinary care.

Ensuring all domestic cats are desexed is the responsibility of cat owners and must be considered as part of the overall care of all cats, male and female.

**Dr Hugh Wirth, Dr Carole Webb and Dr Graeme Smith will be available for interview from 11am on Monday April 23, at the Lort Smith Animal Hospital, Villiers St. North Melbourne.**

FURTHER INFORMATION; ALLAN CRAIG 0408 589003

Participating organisations; RSPCA, Cat Protection Society, Lost Dogs Home, Lort Smith Animal Hospital, Victorian Animal Aid Trust, Australian Animal Protection Society.