



South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter manager Michele Phillips with a Rainbow Lorikeet attacked by a cat. Picture: Andy Brownbill

East

# Manager of Oakleigh wildlife shelter urges Monash Council to introduce a cat curfew in a bid to save animals

Suzan Delibasic, Monash Leader  
August 8, 2017 7:00am

THE manager of an Oakleigh wildlife shelter has called on Monash Council to introduce a cat curfew to save other animals – and themselves.

South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter manager Michele Phillips said she rescued more than 2500 animals a year which were attacked by cats.

“We need a 24-hour cat curfew in Monash immediately because too many wildlife animals are dying,” Ms Phillips said.

She said a cat curfew would prevent cats from being killed.

“Far too many cats are being run over or injured as a result of fights.”

Ms Phillips said she urged Monash Council to introduce a curfew as part of their Domestic Animal Management Plan.

“Most councils have a 12-hour cat curfew and it’s time for Monash to follow in their footsteps and do the same.”

She said pet owners needed to be more responsible.

“We lock our dogs up and they don’t wander the street.”



A Rainbow Lorikeet attacked by a cat in South Oakleigh. Picture: Andy Brownbill

Ms Phillips said for less than \$200 pet owners could install barriers along their fences to ensure cats could not escape.

“The barriers have plastic that curl outwards to stop cats from wandering. They can still go outdoors and enjoy nature with them.”

Cr Fergus said he was disappointed about the draft plan failing to include the introduction of a curfew.

“Cats hunt primarily at night and can be extremely destructive in our local environment,” he said.

Monash Mayor Rebecca Paterson said community consultation on the Draft Animal Management Plan was open until August 17.

“The council will consider the community feedback after that date before making any final decisions on the management of cats within Monash,” Cr Paterson said.

“We understand there is support from some of the community for a cat curfew but we are also aware that complaints about nuisance cats received by council have reduced considerably over the past four years.”

Have your say at [monash@leadernewspapers.com.au](mailto:monash@leadernewspapers.com.au)