



# Decision Guide for Stray and Feral Cat Management in Tasmania 2025



## A Guide For:

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Land Managers

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Private Property Owners

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Primary Production Use

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Councils

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Covenant Holders

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Renters

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# Acknowledgement



Landcare Tasmania acknowledges that the island of Lutruwita/Trouwerner is Aboriginal Land, sovereignty was not, and never will be, ceded. Aboriginal people have cared for the lands, waterways, skies, and communities of Lutruwita/Trouwerner since the beginning of time. We pay respects to the palawa/pakana of Lutruwita/Trouwerner and strive to fulfil our simple but collective vision – that all Tasmanian communities are empowered and enabled to care for the land and waterways of Lutruwita/Trouwerner. Landcare Tasmania is committed to continuously listening, learning, and building stronger relationships with Aboriginal communities.

# Relevant Authorities

## SUPPORTED BY:



## PARTNERS:



We've partnered with the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions to deliver community education and action on management of invasive species in Tasmania. The Centre is a national collaborative research, development and extension organisation tackling the ongoing threats invasive species pose to Australia's environment, agricultural industries and communities.

Their success is underpinned by collaboration with scientists, governments, universities and peak industry, environmental and NRM groups. They support community action on invasive species through a network of national coordinators.

## CONTACTS FOR ADMINISTRATORS OF ACTS REFERRED TO IN THIS DOCUMENT:

**Cat Management Act 2009**  
**Minister for Primary Industries and Water**  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/>

**Land Tax Act 2000**  
**Treasurer**  
Department of Treasury and Finance  
<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/>

**Firearms Act 1996**  
**Minister for Police, Fire, and Emergency Management**  
Department of Police, Fire, and Emergency Management  
<https://www.dpferm.tas.gov.au/>

**Animal Welfare Act 1993**  
**Minister for Primary Industries and Water**  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/>

**Forest Practices Act 1985**  
**Forest Practices Authority**  
<https://fpa.tas.gov.au/>

**Forest Management Act 2013**  
**Minister for Resources**  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/>

**Nature Conservation Act 2002**  
**Minister for Primary Industries and Water**  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/>

**State Service Act 2000**  
**Premier**  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
<https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/>

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# Introduction

Landcare Tasmania acknowledges that pet cats are important companions offering emotional support and fostering a sense of well-being for pet owners. However, the impact of roaming domestic, stray and feral cats on wildlife, agricultural systems and human health through direct predation and disease are devastating. Therefore, responsible pet cat ownership and stray and feral cat management are critical in reducing these threats and risks.

As a result of significant consultation, Landcare Tasmania has identified that a major barrier to effective cat management is the difficulty in knowing the best way to manage stray and feral cats on different land tenures across Tasmania. With contributions from experts in the field, Landcare Tasmania has developed this guide to help landowners, farmers, residents, community groups and government agencies navigate the legislation associated with cat management activities. It is a practical guide to help users navigate a series of questions and considerations, leading to tailored solutions for cat management.

# Important Information

Planning what to do with a trapped cat is required before you begin to set traps, including pre-arranging the taking of trapped cats to a Registered Cat Management Facility, or a nominee of a cat management facility, or organising the dispatch of cats according to the *Firearms Act 1996*, *Cat Management Act 2009* and the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*.

- According to the National Standard Operating Procedure: Methods of euthanasia, humane destruction methods for trapped feral cats are a shot to the brain by a skilled person with an appropriate firearm and licence or an overdose of barbiturate (see <https://pestsmart.org.au/pest-animals/general-methods-of-euthanasia-in-field-conditions/>)
- Feral cat means a cat that lives largely or entirely removed from humans in the wild and does not depend for its survival on humans intentionally providing food, water or shelter
- Stray cat means a cat that is not a domestic cat but lives in close proximity to humans and may receive from them some food, water or shelter and be accustomed to their presence
- The traps referred to in this document are cage traps ONLY not leghold traps, glue board traps or snares (see Section 12 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*).
- It is best practise to notify your neighbours and scan the cat for a microchip whilst it is in the cage trap. If a microchip is detected take the cat to a registered cat management facility or a nominee of a registered cat management facility, or, if you know the owner, return the cat.
- Microchip scanner – you can buy a scanner or borrow one from Landcare Tasmania.

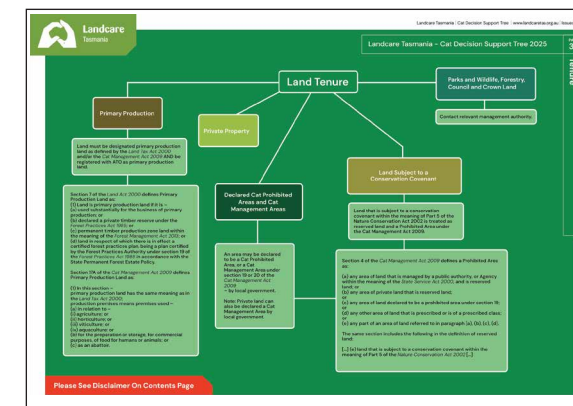
• To determine if your trap is located greater than 1 km from any building or structure used as a place of residence (not your own), you can use the measurement tool on the List Map.

• By engaging in any activities outlined in this guide, you are solely responsible for your actions and their consequences. Any breach of applicable laws is subject to legal accountability by the person undertaking cat management actions. Landcare Tasmania disclaims any and all liability arising from your conduct and participation in the following cat management actions and they are undertaken at your own risk. Full disclaimer is on the contents page of this document.

# How To Use A Decision Support Tree

## Step 1: Determine Your Property Type

The Land Tenure Section on Page 3 will assist you to determine what category your property falls under. This will define what you can/can not do regarding cat management.



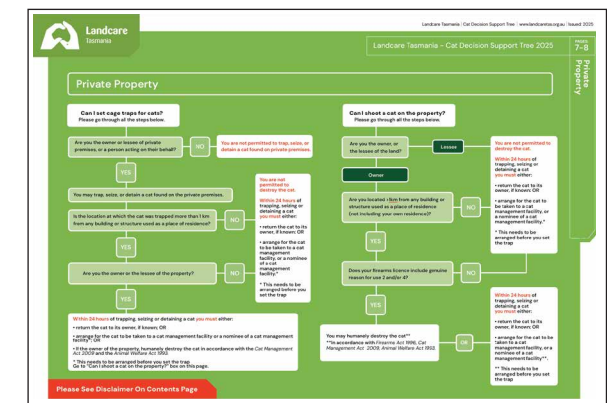
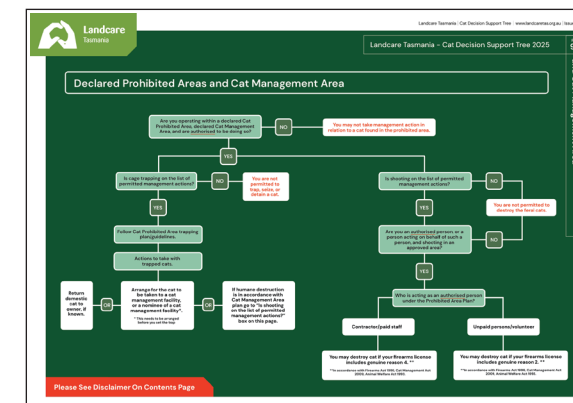
**There are five property types:**

- 1] Primary Production
- 2] Private Property
- 3] Declared Prohibited Area
- 4] Cat Management Area
- 5] Conservation Covenant Land

Once you have selected the property type you will be directed to the correct decision tree to determine what you can and cannot do when it comes to cat management.

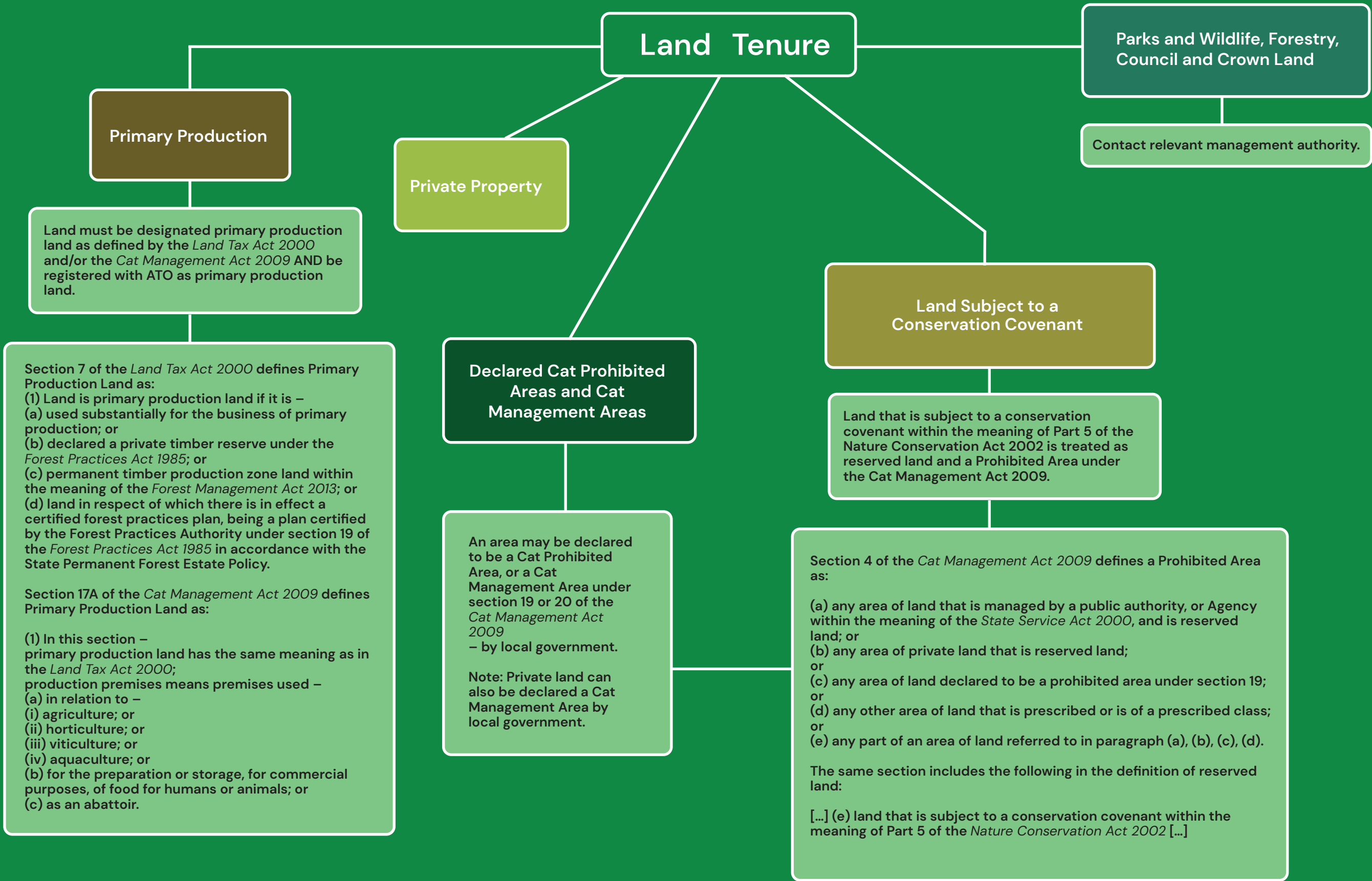
## Step 2: Follow The Relevant Decision Tree

Follow the chart and move through the options answering the relevant questions until you come to final decision. Decisions marked in Red mean you are not permitted to trap, seize, detain or destroy a cat.

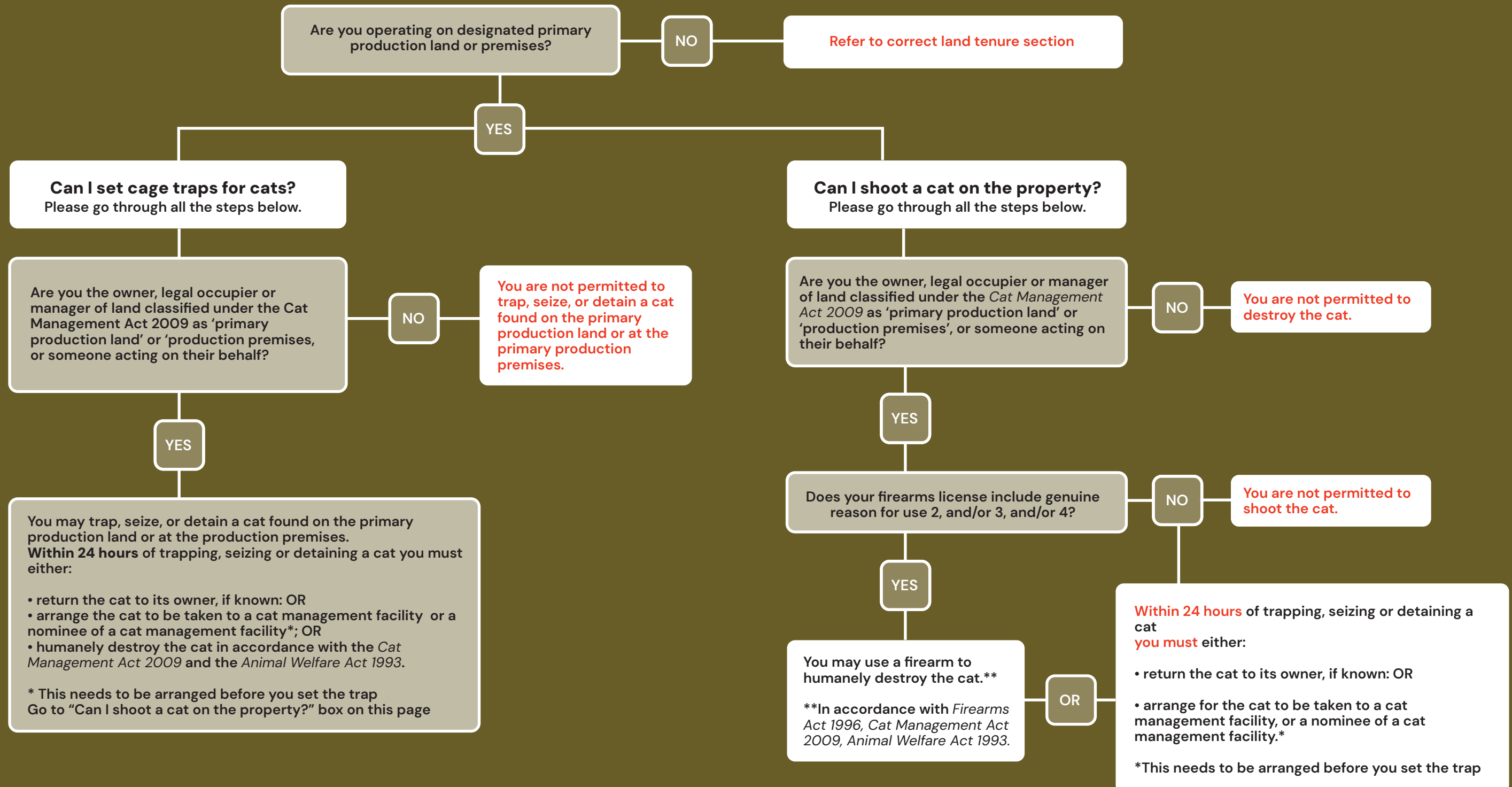


## Step 3: Take Appropriate Action

All other decisions will guide you as to the correct and legal course of action that you can take with regards to dealing with a cat on your premises. If you are unclear as to what action to take contact the relevant authority listed on the contents page of this document.



## Primary Production



## Private Property

**Can I set cage traps for cats?**  
Please go through all the steps below.

Are you the owner or lessee of private premises, or a person acting on their behalf?

NO

You are not permitted to trap, seize, or detain a cat found on private premises.

YES

You may trap, seize, or detain a cat found on the private premises.

Is the location at which the cat was trapped more than 1 km from any building or structure used as a place of residence?

NO

You are not permitted to destroy the cat.

Within 24 hours of trapping, seizing or detaining a cat you must either:

- return the cat to its owner, if known: OR
- arrange for the cat to be taken to a cat management facility, or a nominee of a cat management facility.\*

\* This needs to be arranged before you set the trap

YES

Are you the owner or the lessee of the property?

NO

YES

Within 24 hours of trapping, seizing or detaining a cat you must either:

- return the cat to its owner, if known; OR
- arrange for the cat to be taken to a cat management facility or a nominee of a cat management facility\*; OR
- If the owner of the property, humanely destroy the cat in accordance with the *Cat Management Act 2009* and the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*.

\* This needs to be arranged before you set the trap  
Go to "Can I shoot a cat on the property?" box on this page.

**Can I shoot a cat on the property?**  
Please go through all the steps below.

Are you the owner, or the lessee of the land?

Lessee

You are not permitted to destroy the cat.

Within 24 hours of trapping, seizing or detaining a cat you must either:

- return the cat to its owner, if known: OR
- arrange for the cat to be taken to a cat management facility, or a nominee of a cat management facility.\*

\* This needs to be arranged before you set the trap

Owner

Are you located >1km from any building or structure used as a place of residence (not including your own residence)?

NO

YES

Does your firearms licence include genuine reason for use 2 and/or 4?

NO

YES

You may humanely destroy the cat\*\*

\*\*In accordance with *Firearms Act 1996*, *Cat Management Act 2009*, *Animal Welfare Act 1993*.

OR

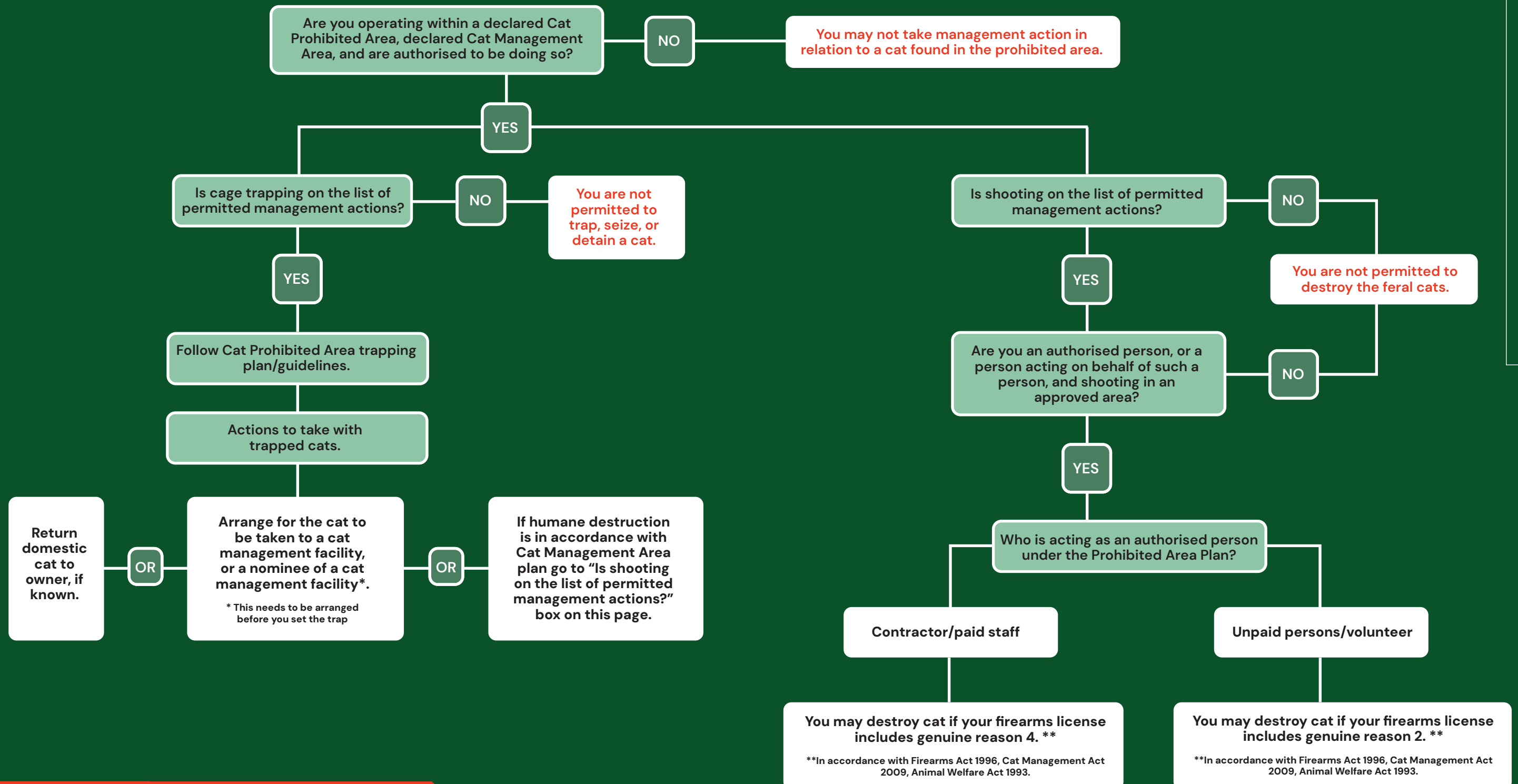
Within 24 hours of trapping, seizing or detaining a cat you must either:

- return the cat to its owner, if known: OR
- arrange for the cat to be taken to a cat management facility, or a nominee of a cat management facility\*\*.

\*\* This needs to be arranged before you set the trap

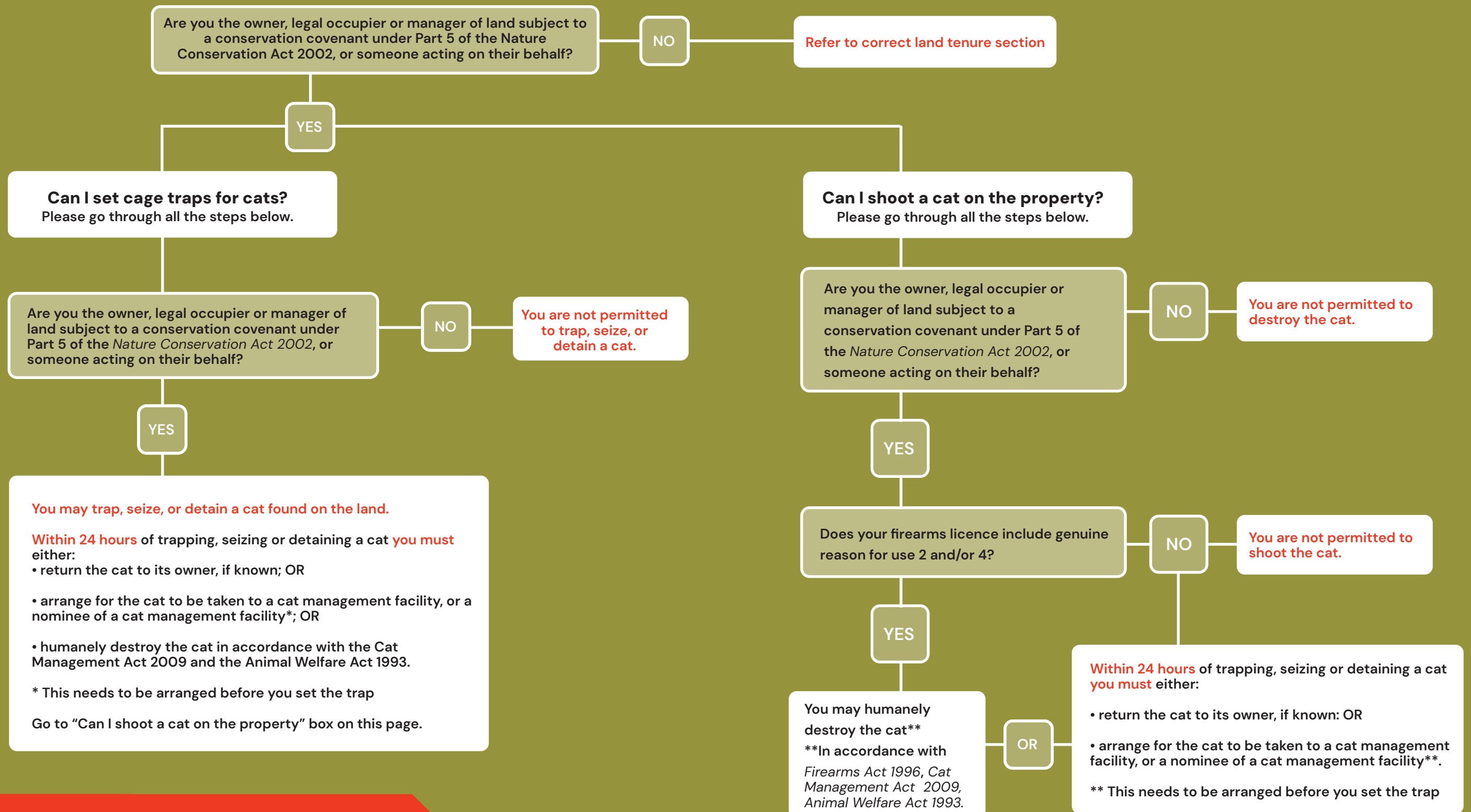


## Declared Prohibited Areas and Cat Management Area





## Conservation Covenant



## Resources, Contacts and Information

### Contacts for administrators of Acts referred to in this document

*Cat Management Act 2009*  
**Minister for Primary Industries and Water**  
**Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania**  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/>

*Land Tax Act 2000*  
**Treasurer**  
**Department of Treasury and Finance**  
<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/>

*Firearms Act 1996*  
**Minister for Police, Fire, and Emergency Management**  
**Department of Police, Fire, and Emergency Management**  
<https://www.dpfem.tas.gov.au/>

*Animal Welfare Act 1993*  
**Minister for Primary Industries and Water**  
**Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania**  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/>

*Forest Practices Act 1985*  
**Forest Practices Authority**  
<https://fpa.tas.gov.au/>

*Forest Management Act 2013*  
**Minister for Resources**  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/>

*Nature Conservation Act 2002*  
**Minister for Primary Industries and Water**  
**Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania**  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/>

*State Service Act 2000*  
**Premier**  
**Department of Premier and Cabinet**  
<https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/>

### Useful Resources

**NRE Tas Invasive Species Feral Cats**  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/invasive-animals/invasive-mammals/feral-cats>

**NRE Tas Responsible Cat Ownership**  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/responsible-cat-ownership>

**Tasmanian Cat Management Plan 2017–2022 (under review)**  
<https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/responsible-cat-ownership/tasmanian-cat-management-plan>

**National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordination**  
<https://feralcatandfox.com.au/>

**Glovebox Guide for Managing Feral Cats**  
<https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/02/CISS-Glovebox-Guide-Cat-web.pdf>

**PestSmart Feral Cat Toolbox**  
<https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkits/feral-cats/>

**Feral Scan Data Logging Website** <https://www.feralscan.org.au/>

**Just Cats** <https://www.justcats.org.au/>

**Ten Lives** <https://tenlives.com.au/>

**Cats and Human Health**  
[https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/gatmsmla/7-4-cat-dependent-disease-findings-factsheet\\_v17.pdf](https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/gatmsmla/7-4-cat-dependent-disease-findings-factsheet_v17.pdf)

**Cats and Disease Impacts on Agriculture**  
[https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/w4jdwslx/7-4-cats-and-agriculture-findings-factsheet\\_v13.pdf](https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/media/w4jdwslx/7-4-cats-and-agriculture-findings-factsheet_v13.pdf)

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