



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 21

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
JO CLAY MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Lawder:

In relation to: Cat Containment

- 1) It is my understanding that in cat containment suburbs residents are not allowed to walk their cat on a lead, is that correct?
- 2) Why can't residents walk their cat on a lead given it's appropriately restrained?
- 3) Given the recent changes relating to animal welfare, doesn't restricting cats who live in an apartment from walking outside on a leash negatively impact their mental wellbeing?

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- 1) The current wording of the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* (the Act) has an unintended consequence that cats cannot be walked in containment suburbs.
- 2) The ACT Government will take steps to amend the Act to clarify that cats may be walked on a lead and harness in all suburbs, including containment suburbs.
- 3) The ACT Government is committed to the highest standards of animal welfare. Ensuring that cats are able to safely walk on a lead within Cat Containment suburbs will assist the ACT Government in this commitment.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Chris Steel".

Date: 12/3/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA