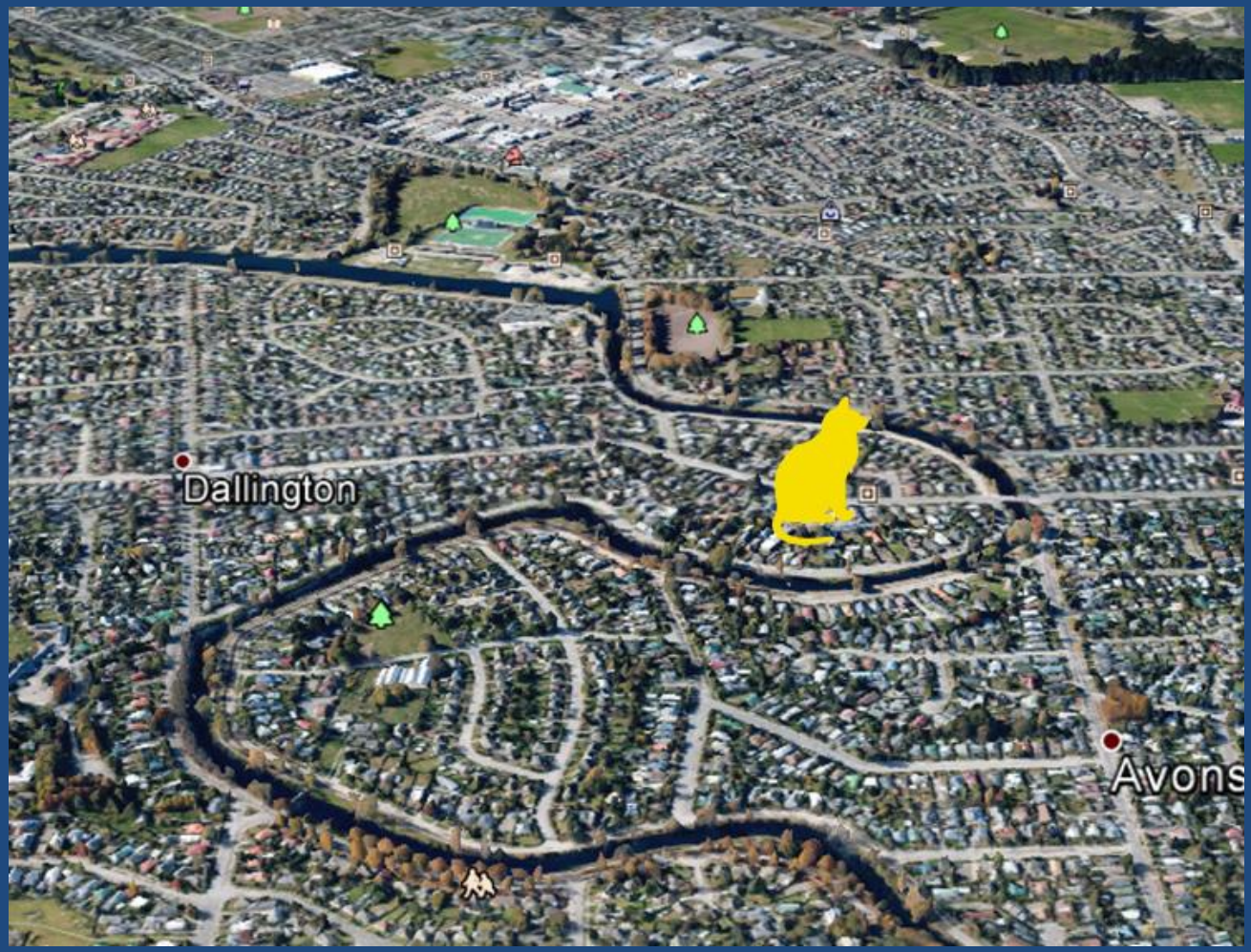
# Practical methods for identification of lost cats with reclusive behaviours

- Many cats hide when outside their ‘home territory’ & appear unsocial
- Emerging to feed only at night is a common strategy to avoid being seen.
- Reclusive lost cats can get ‘stuck’ where people feed strays and hedgehogs, or where food scraps are regularly available
- Automated trail cameras can only identify distinctive cats with current Lost ads

- Microchips are great but not much help if you cannot see or approach the cat
- One solution is to use an automatic (‘remote’) microchip reader/recorder at feeding points, in addition to a camera. This is excellent for cats that are chipped and have up-to-date contact details.

# Gemma's story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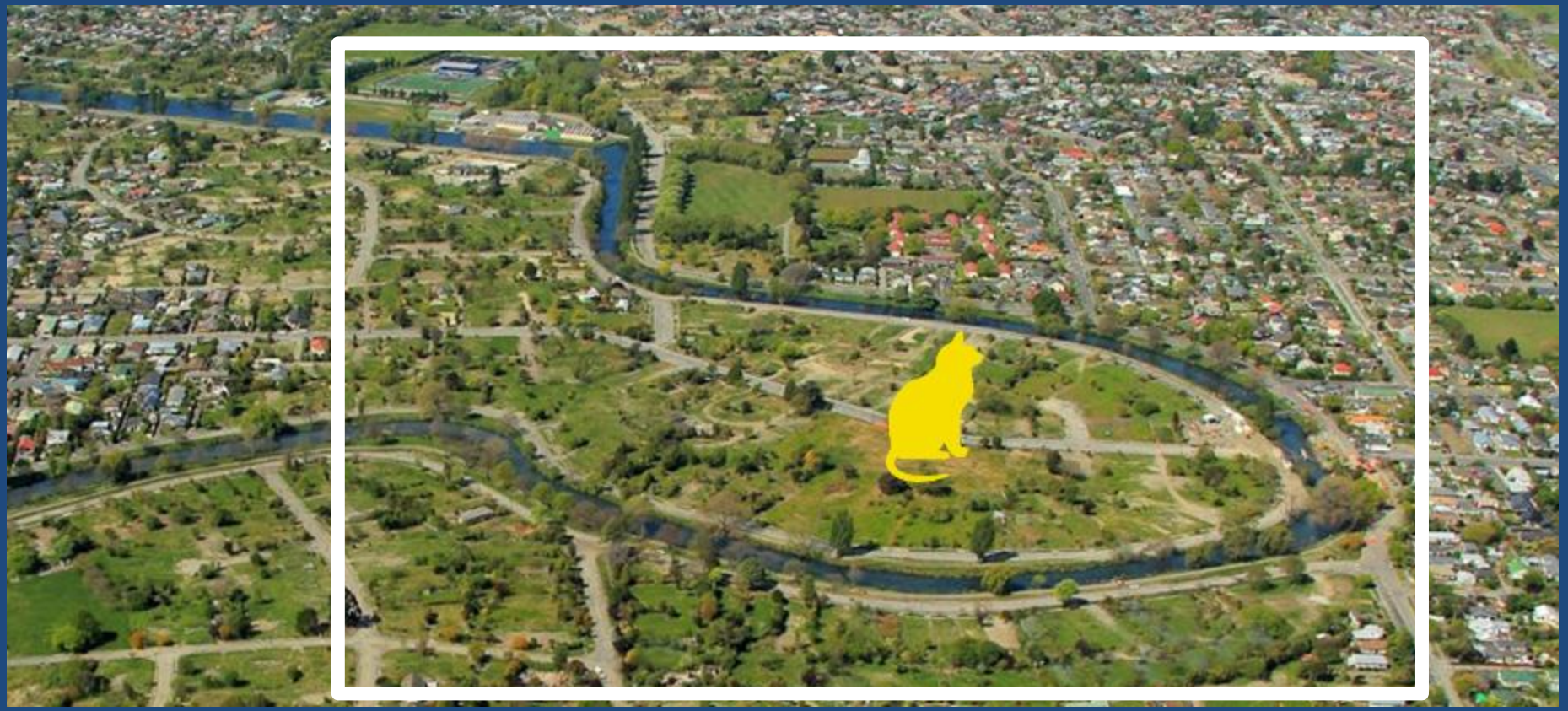
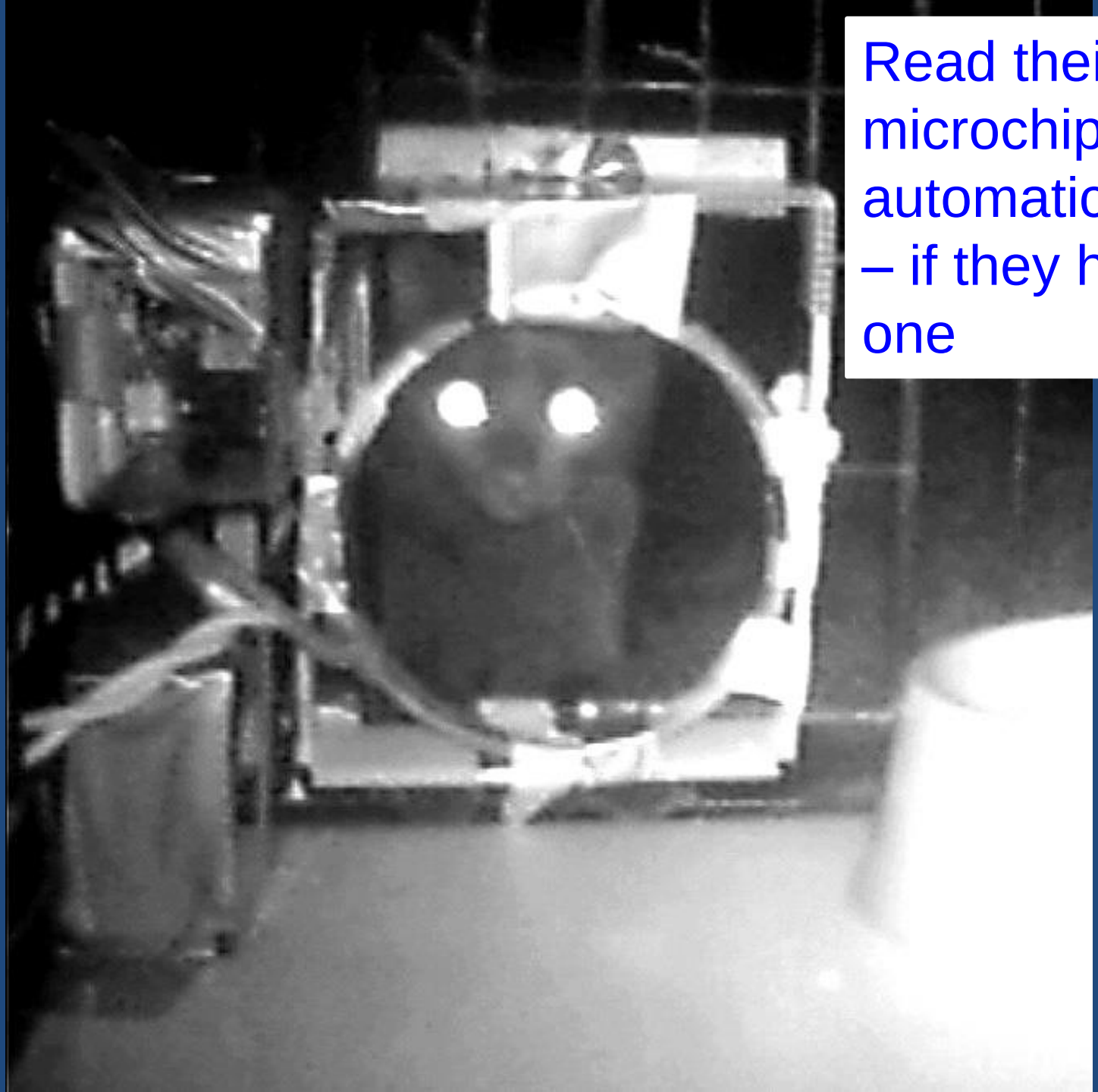


# Painter’s story

Painter at the feeding station - video

But what about the many black cats and generic tabbies?



Read their microchips automatically – if they have one

Automatic microchip reader/recorder, AUD $75, includes aerial

Animal tag RFID reader module

www.priority1design.com.au/animal_tag_rfid_reader.html

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## Animal tag and RFID re
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RFIDRW-E-232

View Prices

The RFIDRW-E is a RFID rea
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EM4100, T5557/67, EM4205 /
can also read animal identifica
as described by ISO11784/117

This unit comes supplied with
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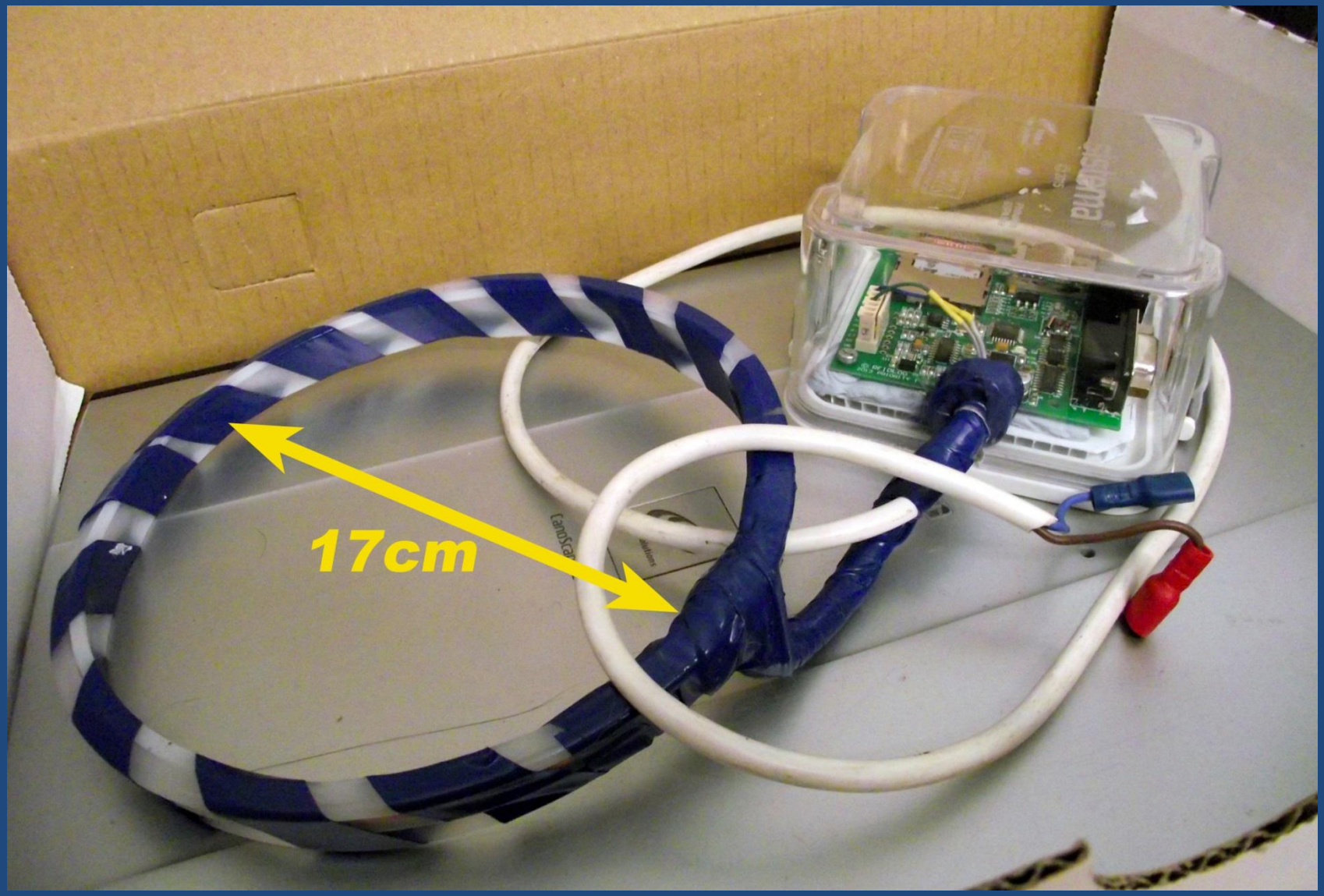
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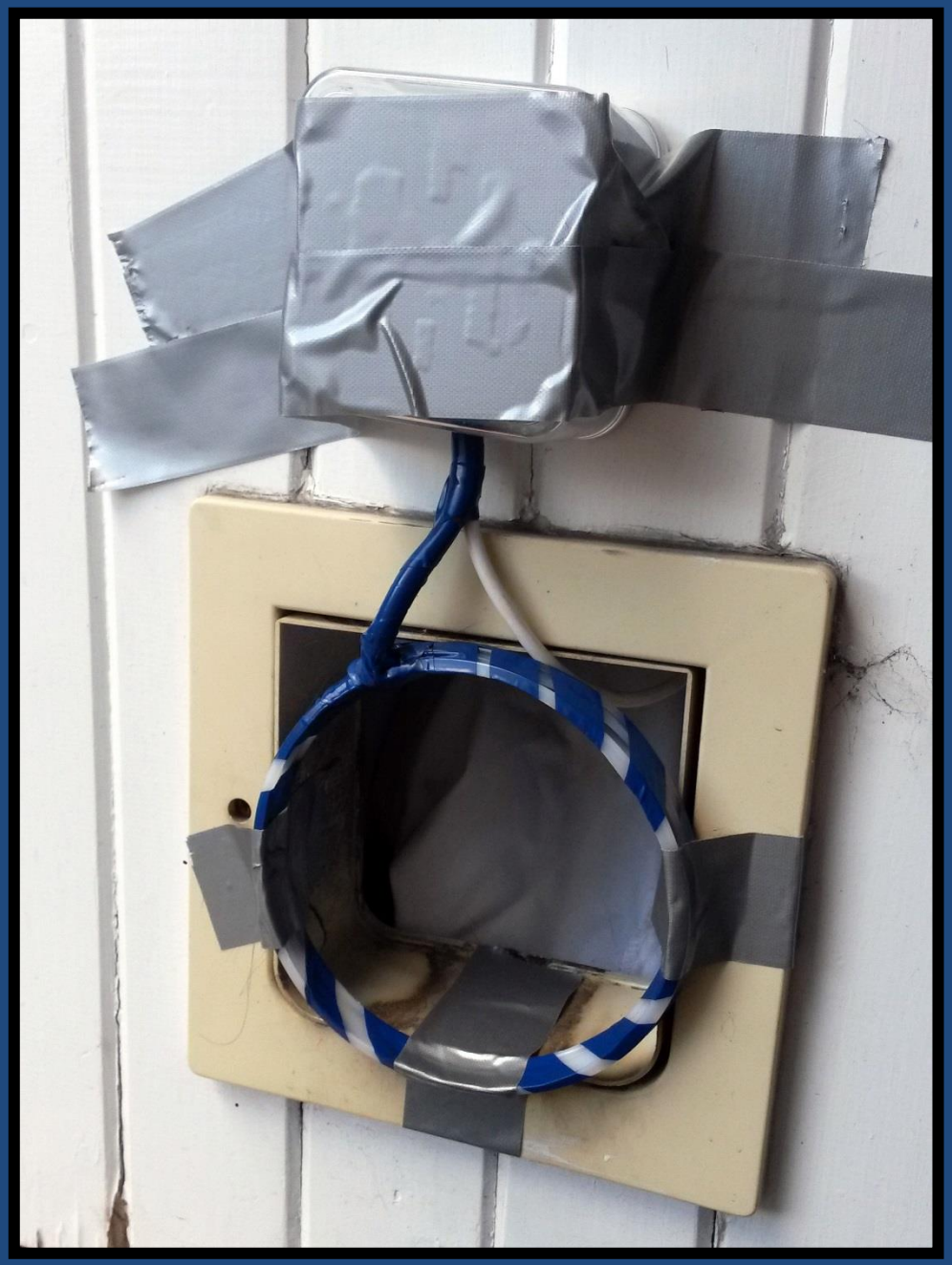

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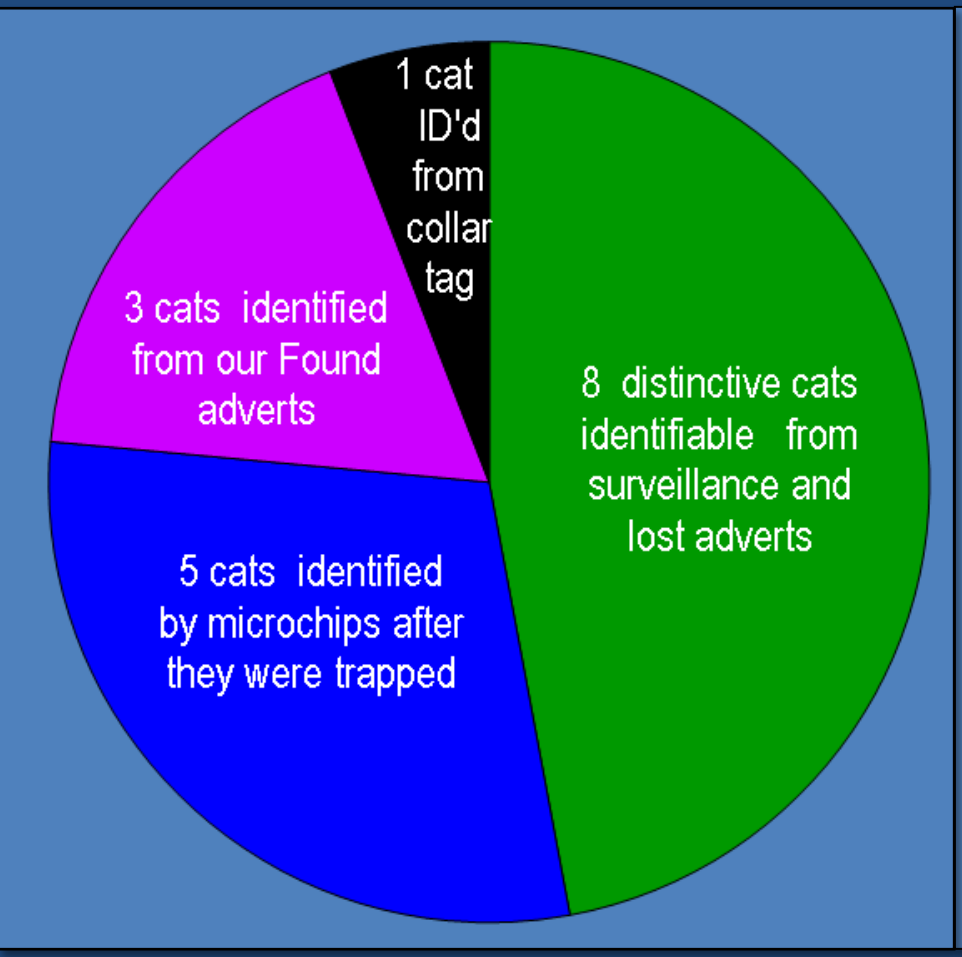
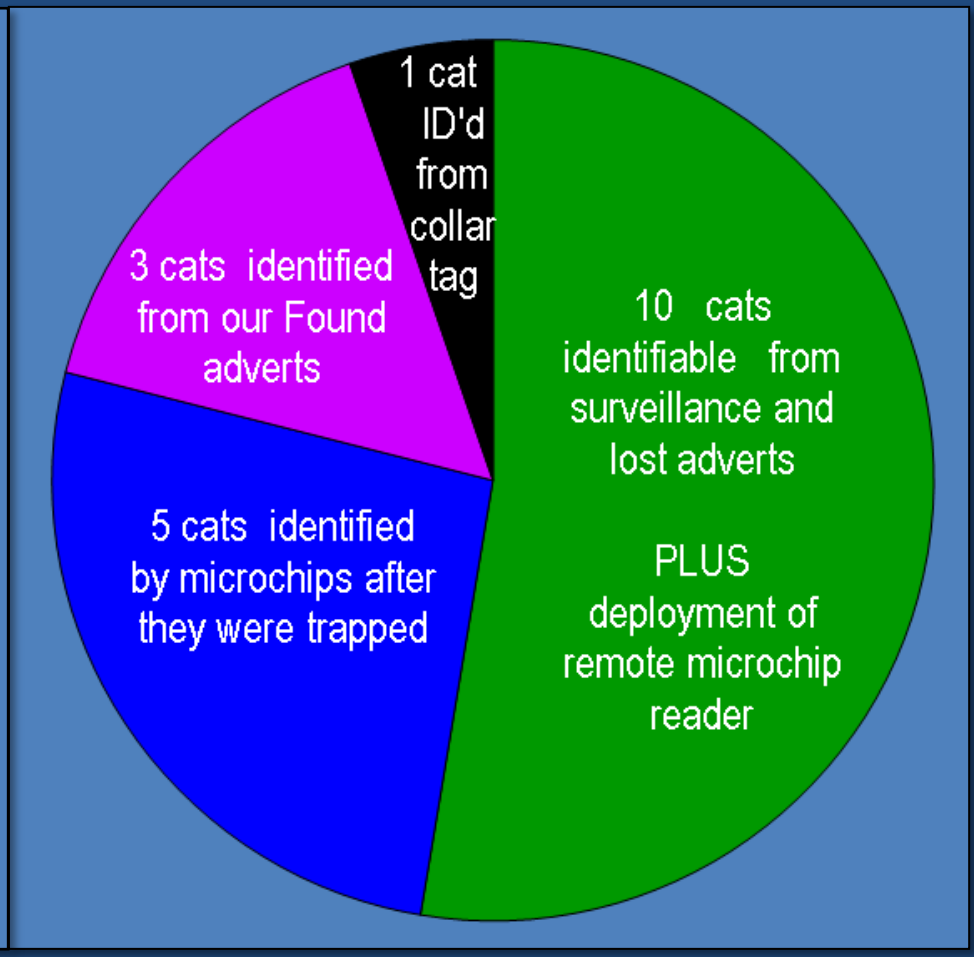
Of 121 adult cats removed from the red zone, 60% were social, but only a handful of these allowed themselves to be approached. To date 19 social cats have been identified, 17 before we had the remote chip reader (left); 19 and counting since we starting using the remote chip reader (right).



# What now?

- What we have learned in the red zone we are now applying elsewhere
- The first step in classifying  any cat population is surveillance and remote screening for microchips. Lost cats & breeding females are prioritised for trapping
- All kinds of people feed and/or worry about homeless cats. Our rule is that we will help if people are prepared to be part of the solution, and many are
- Everyone has the skills to supply a feeding station and use a trail camera. We always have cameras out on loan, but we control the chip reader
- When trapping is necessary in a multi-cat situation that is our job too, because we trap selectively using a webcam, computer network, and manual trap release (previously a string, now electronic)