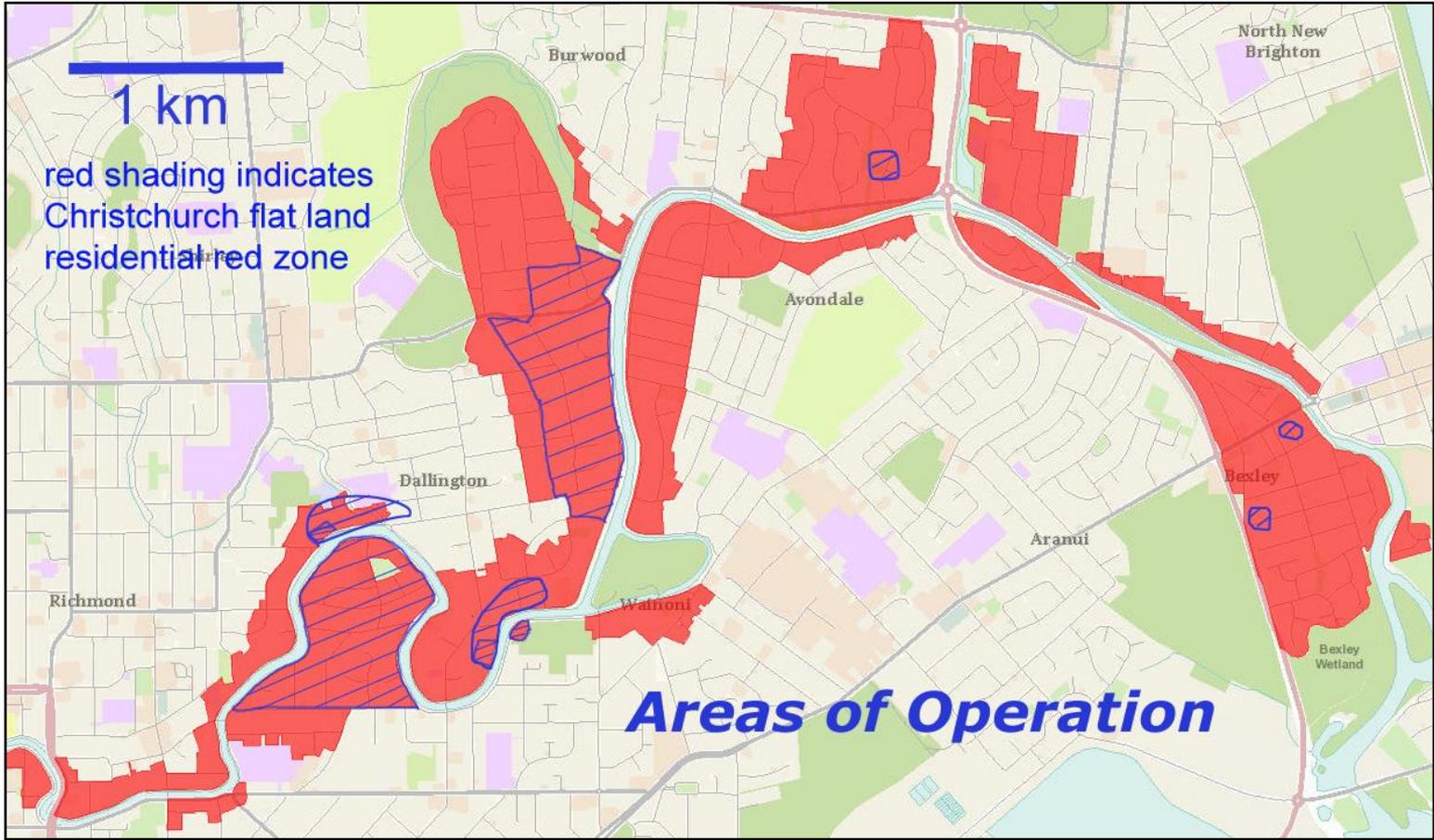




**REDZONECATS.ORG.NZ**

- Methods
- Data
- Philosophies

Arising from a response to the  
Christchurch/Canterbury earthquake sequence



# Land damage by lateral spreading



# Land damage by liquefaction



# Before red zone clearance



# After red zone clearance





**REDZONECATS.ORG.NZ**

- **Surveillance**
- **Selective trapping (using surveillance)**
- **Behavioural assessment**
- **Testing**
- **Rehabilitation/socialisation**
- **Adoption**

# Surveillance is fundamental to everything

- cameras at feeding stations allowed us to acquire a snapshot of the cats living in each area
- of the cats documented in atlases compiled in 2014, more than 90% were trapped or otherwise accounted for
- few homeless cats move on after they find our feeding stations
- to date a total of 123 cats have been brought in from the red zone and nearby green zone areas

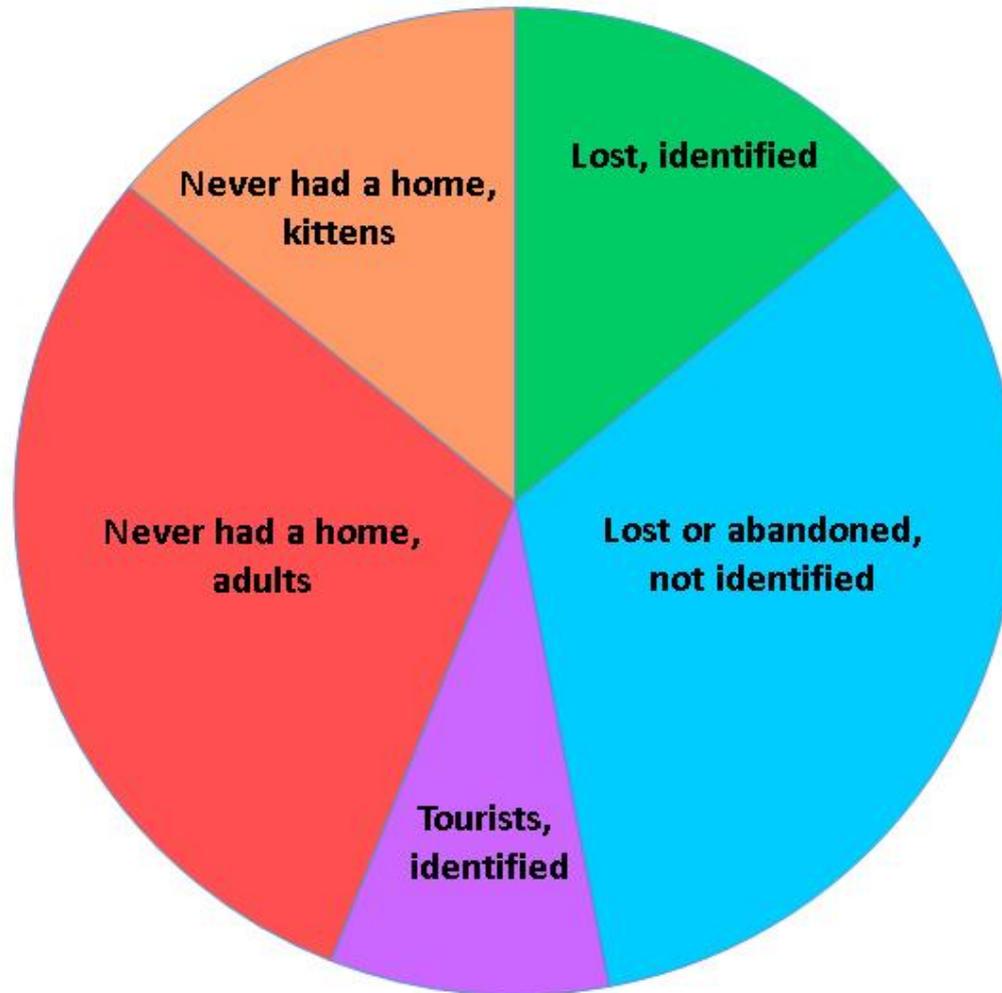


**Dog proof feeding station**

Examples of information about gender/breeding and health status from surveillance are shown at this youtube link

<https://youtu.be/JENIdwQG3VY>

# February 2013 to June 2016 116 cats in and near the red zone





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# Classification of behaviour

<b>Reclusive</b> = only seen on camera	<b>Social:</b> has learned to associate confidently with humans. See notes.
<b>Unapproachable</b> = seen but cannot be approached outdoors	<b>Note 1:</b> after a period of homelessness, rehabilitation may be required
<b>Approachable</b> = allows physical contact	<b>Note 2:</b> many social cats present as unsocial for 1-4 days after trapped
	<b>Pre-social</b> = socialised rapidly once human contact commenced

No.	Cat name/ID	Identified	Outdoor	Indoor behaviour	Already social?
				lost & tourist	behaviour
71	Tilly	<b>Lost 2 months</b>	reclusive	shy and affectionate	SOCIAL
78	Slinky		approachable	shy and affectionate	SOCIAL
80	Jasper/AL10		reclusive	frightened	UNSOCIAL
85	Zorro/AL23		reclusive	frightened	SOCIAL
86	Casper	<b>Lost 3 weeks</b>	reclusive	frightened	SOCIAL
89	Susie		approachable	confident and affectionate	SOCIAL
90	Fluffy		unapproachable	shy and affectionate	SOCIAL
91	Gizzy (again)	<b>Lost ?3 weeks</b>	reclusive	shy	SOCIAL
94	Morris		approachable	shy and affectionate	SOCIAL
95	Tammy		reclusive	affectionate	SOCIAL
96	Sossy	<b>Lost 6 months</b>	reclusive	affectionate	SOCIAL

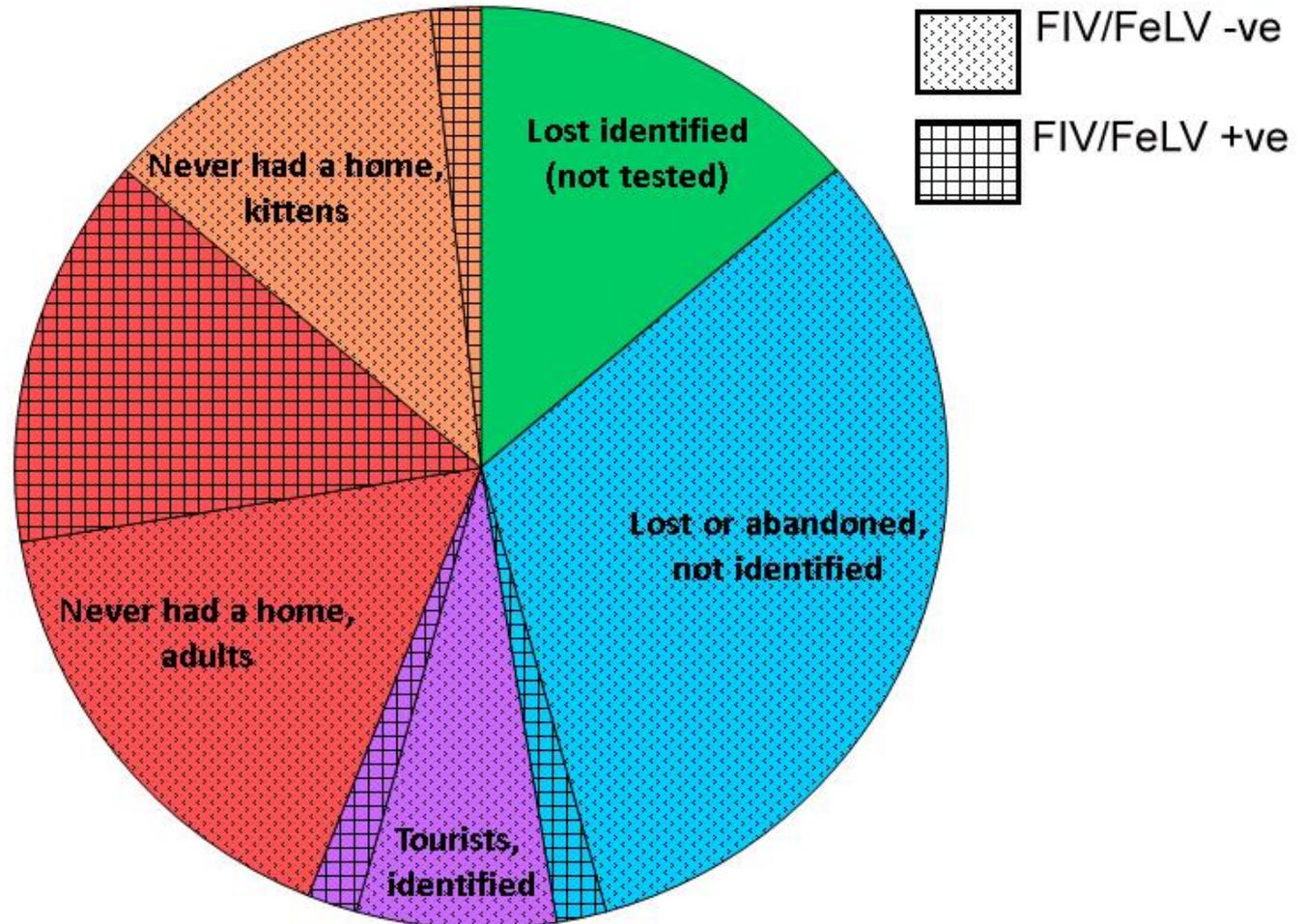


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One reason our test data are useful is because all homeless cats in an area are found, trapped and tested, providing a comprehensive snapshot of the population

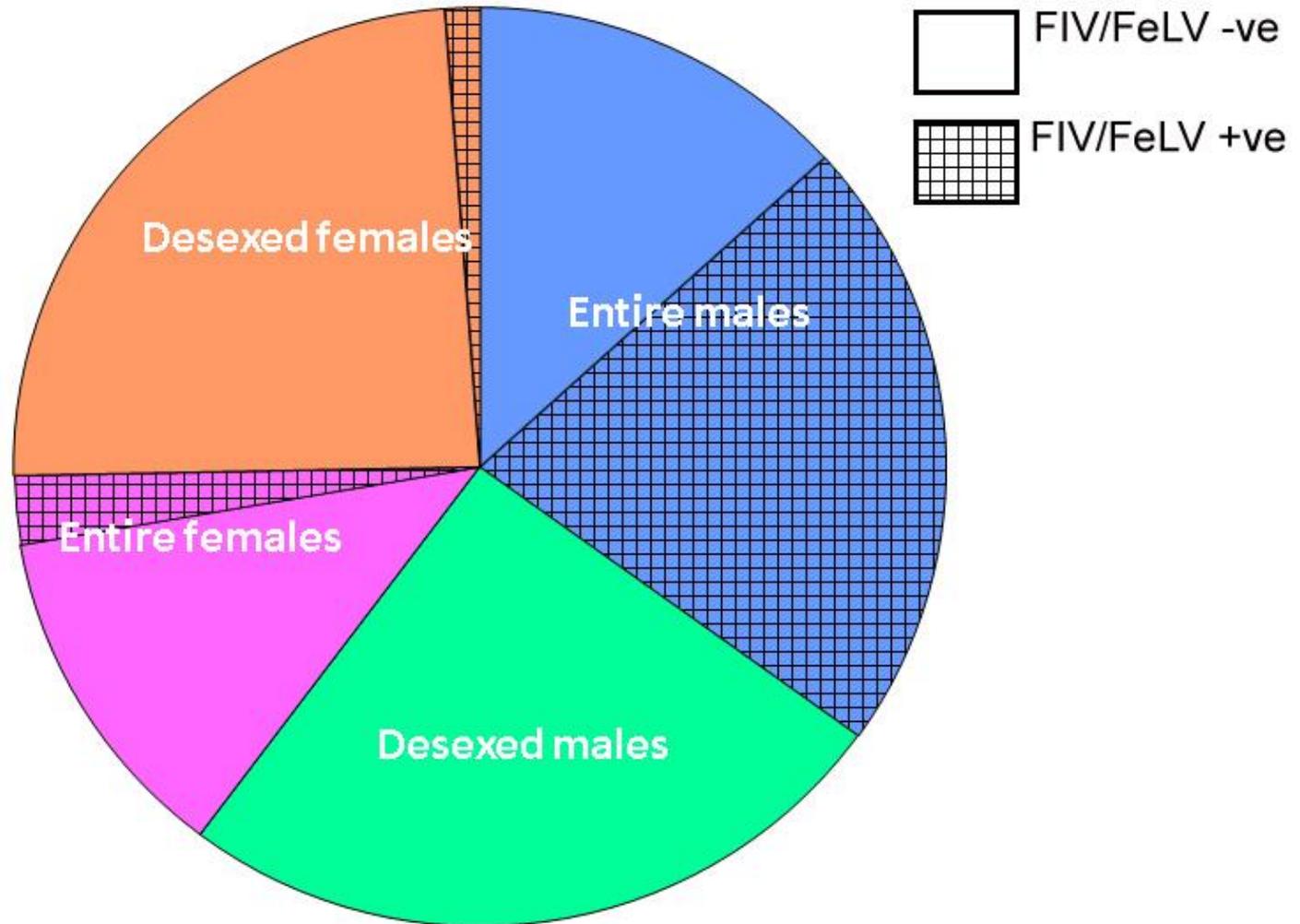
# FIV & FeLV incidence – SNAP test



(NB 3 tourists, out of 10 total, were not tested.  
Currently shown as -ve)

# FIV & FeLV incidence by gender and desex status

## Tested adults only (83 cats)



Entire males who are FIV –ve are fighting averse.  
This is indicated by:

1. absence of fight wounds
2. behaviour that is not aggressive

Surveillance at feeding stations provides important behavioural information.

This link shows the interactions of “Big Tom” with other cats at his feeding station. Although there is no sound, you can see that Big Tom is howling during his challenge to Thorin (last cat in the video).

<https://youtu.be/FiyOZ9RyTnY>

“Big Tom” (AL-16 in the Avonside Loop atlas, 2014) was too large for a standard trap ( see <https://youtu.be/voPBo4byUrw>) and he was eventually acquired in an extra-large trap. Despite his reluctance to fight Thorin, the entire male shown in the previous video, Big Tom had been attacked many times by aggressive toms in the area, and was FIV+ve





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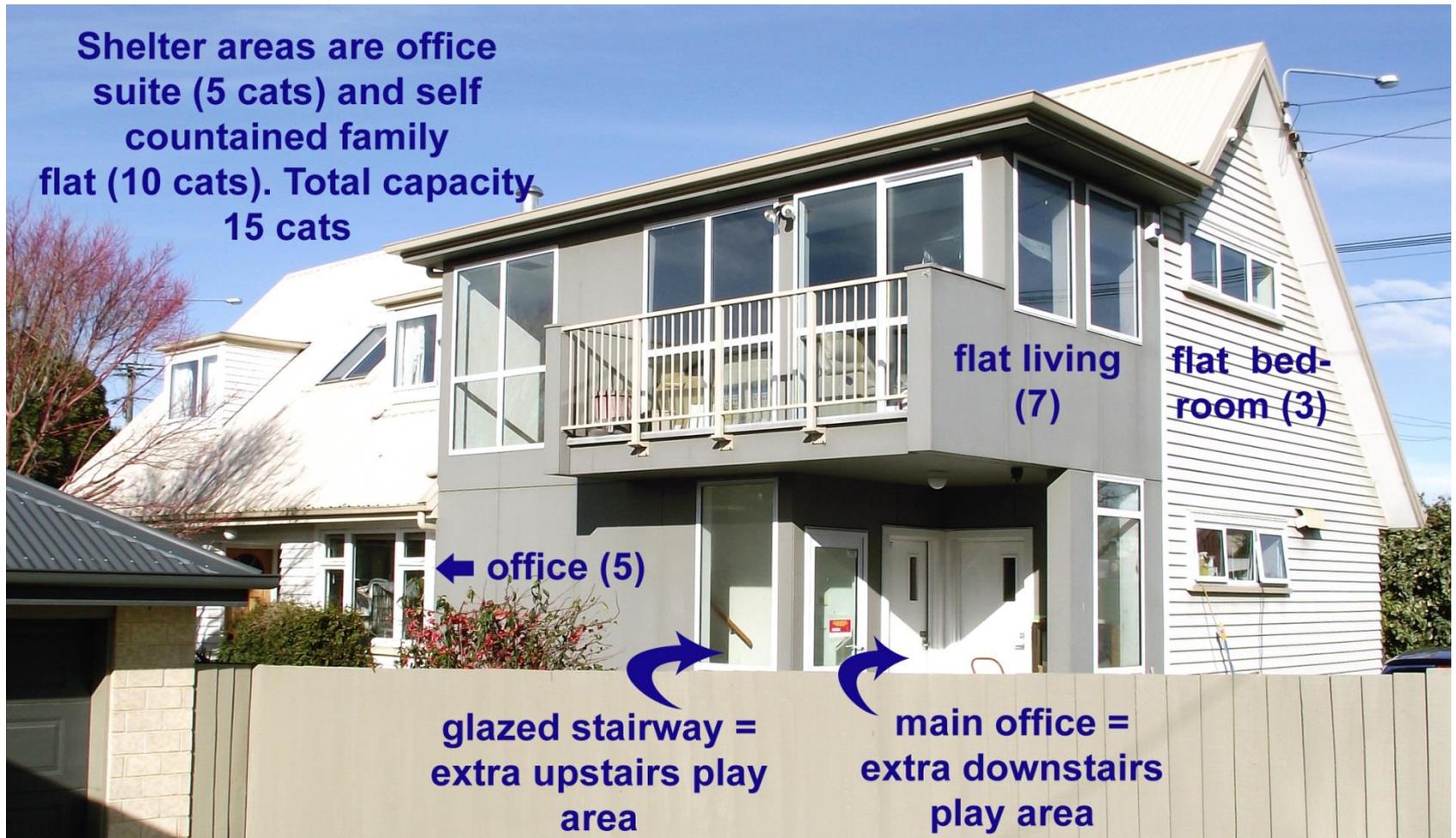
- Surveillance
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# Rehabilitation/Socialisation

1. The philosophy of redzonecats is that all cats not carrying FIV or FeLV, or seriously unwell for some other reason, can be socialised/rehabilitated and placed in homes.
2. All healthy unsocial cats, regardless of age, have been successfully socialised and placed in homes since the current methods were developed during 2013.

- Some previously social cats have disturbed behaviour due to long term homelessness. These cats can take up to 6 months to rehabilitate and some are reluctant to form relationships with other cats
- Cats who have never been socialised exhibit a wide range of behaviours. Some are aggressive but many are not, unless handled too soon without sedation.
- Soft-shell carry pods are the key to managing cats in the early stages. The cat is released from the trap directly into a large crate containing a pod, which becomes the bed and carry box for the cat. This allows the cat to be transported to the vet the day after trapping with no handling

# Redzonecats use their office suite and unoccupied family flat as a home-like shelter environment





- No cat is confined continuously in a crate for longer than the first 2 weeks, often less.
- Both aggressive and passive unsocial cats are initially frightened of humans and do best when housed with other cats at various stages of socialisation.
- We have consistently found that unsocial cats, after being desexed and completing their initial settling-in period, are gregarious and actively seek a friendly relationship with other cats.
- The following examples – Thorin, Mia and Jasper – were socialised in the office space.

## Example: Thorin (cat 112)

We watched Thorin on camera for several months from teenager to young adult. Thorin was reclusive with people and we observed him avoiding conflict with a local entire male (“Big Tom”; Cat 111). When we trapped Thorin at around 12 months of age he had no obvious fight wounds and was FIV negative. After being passive unsocial for his first week in a crate he became aggressive unsocial and quite grumpy. We opened his crate door at around 10 days and he was much happier being able to explore the room. He quickly got into the mealtime routine and was often in bed in his crate in the morning. Thorin was confident about being touched after just a few weeks.

## Example: Jasper (cat 80)

We watched Jasper on camera from a young teenager to about 18 months of age. Jasper was reclusive with people and our surveillance showed him avoiding contact with other entire males. When we trapped him he had no obvious fight wounds and was FIV negative. He was initially passive unsocial but after 2 weeks became aggressive unsocial. We used food rewards to train him to return to his crate for mealtimes, to prevent him from eating the other cats' food (he is chubby). Jasper had an acute fear of being touched and we eventually had a breakthrough by holding his food bowl in such a way that he had to push his face against our hands to reach the food. We were soon able to let our fingers wander to gently fondle his kneck, and Jasper now initiates affectionate contact at any available opportunity. It took about 12 months to reach this stage but would have been much faster if we had thought to introduce the bowl-holding method earlier.

## Example: Mia (cat 106)

Mia had been TNR'd at the abandoned Addington Saleyards, in the green zone. Mia was unapproachable except that she occasionally allowed the lady who fed the colony to touch her at mealtimes. At about 12 months of age Mia was trapped by Cat Help when the area was about to be developed. Mia was passive unsocial and after approximately 10 days in her crate we allowed her to hide in the bookshelves behind two of the crates. Two meals a day were left in her open crate and she very quickly learned the routine. For several weeks we would hear her jump out of the shelves and into her crate to eat. If she heard us coming back she shot back into the shelves, sometimes several times per meal. At about the 4 week mark she progressed to just hiding under a desk if we returned, and then by about 6 weeks she was brave enough to continue feeding when we came into the room. After this she rapidly became very affectionate in the context of mealtimes, and could be readily stroked and picked up at about the 2 month mark. She continues to be rather shy at floor level, which is common for recently socialised cats.



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- Home placement of all cats, not just those that required socialising, includes one or more home visits to check that the home is suitable and to give the cat some familiarity with the new environment and family.
- Part of the cat's 'home' territory, often including crate and bed, is provided on loan during the settling-in period.
- Loc8tor kits are also often lent to new owners, and cats are trained to wear a collar and Loc8tor tag before being placed.
- Owners provide encouraging feedback, and many maintain contact for 12 months or more after placement



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## Acknowledgements

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