

Shock at Cat Killers

Jamie First

A Facebook group active in Frankston has posted graphic images of cats strung up or shot, and even being used as a stubby holder.

The page, named Cat Busters, contains posts that have sickened animal lovers and raised serious concerns at Frankston Council.

The group's activities came to light when flyers were put into letterboxes in the Frankston area last week. "Cat Busters catches cats," the flyer reads.

"In suburban areas this includes the use of cage and leg-hold traps, and most captured cats and (sic) up destroyed."

The leaflet also reminded owners to take responsibility for keeping their cats on their premises.

"Any cat found off its owner's property at any time is at risk of capture and destruction," the flyer says.

"If you have a cat and you want to keep it, keep it inside."

On its Facebook page, the "community organisation" describes feral and domestic cats as a major threat to native wildlife.

One post shows a photo of a dead cat with a large blood splatter under its head, accompanied by the words "another one bites the dust".

When contacted by the *Leader*, Cat Busters acknowledged that it laid traps in the Frankston area but declined to be interviewed.

"The crazy-cat-lady-lobby means we don't identify ourselves or our supporters in public as it puts us in danger," a Facebook message read.

Since the story was published on frankstonleader.com.au, the group responded on its Facebook page by reiterating the damage cats do to wildlife and saying it handed over domestic pets to councils.

Peninsula Cat Rescue Inc president Joy Herring said the site should be taken down and legal action pursued.

"I have put this Cat Busters (page) to the other Victorian Rescue Groups to see if anyone else knew anything about them and collectively we are horrified," Ms Herring said.

"They really need to be reported, shut down and prosecuted."

Frankston Mayor James Dooley said the council was extremely concerned.

"We urge residents who are concerned about illegal trapping in their area to report this information to the RSPCA and police for investigation," he said.