

Responsibilities of pet owners

To ensure the comfort, safety and health of the whole community, the Companion Animals Act places certain responsibilities on pet owners.

Here is a summary of responsibilities of cat owners under the Act:

- All cats must be identified by a form of identification that enables a local authority to ascertain the name of the cat and the address or telephone number of the owner;
- Cats are prohibited in wildlife protection areas and food preparation/consumption areas;
- You must ensure your cat does not interfere with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises, or
- Repeatedly damage anything outside the property on which it is ordinarily kept.

Penalty notices issued under the Act

Animal not permanently identified (microchipped) . . .	\$165
Animal not registered	\$165
Failure to notify change of address/owner	\$165
Failure to take seized animal to pound/shelter	\$550
Failure to comply with nuisance cat order	\$165
Cat in prohibited place	\$110
Cat not wear identification	\$110
Obstruct authorised officer	\$165

For further explanation and other offences refer to the Companion Animals Act 1998 and Companion Animals Regulation 1999 or contact your local council.

Remember...

A little chip will go a long way toward providing you with peace of mind. Microchip your cat.

For more information

Contact your local NSW council or visit www.dlg.nsw.gov.au



Information for cat owners in NSW

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Two steps for lifetime protection of your pet

The Companion Animals Act 1998 was introduced in New South Wales on 1 July 1999 to protect pets, people and the wider community.

More than 150,000 dogs and cats are lost or stolen every year in NSW. Many are impounded because their owner can't be contacted. Some may end up being rehomed or even destroyed. To decrease the number of pets that are euthanased each year, the Companion Animals Act requires all New South Wales dog and cat owners to have their pets permanently identified and registered for life.

Microchipping and Registration

Microchipping and Registration is a two step process that requires cat owners to:

1. Have their animals implanted with a microchip by the time they are 12 weeks of age, at point of sale or change of ownership (whichever occurs first).
2. Register their animals with the NSW local council by 6 months of age.

Please note: Cats settled with their owners before the commencement of the Companion Animals Act on 1 July 1999 are exempt from lifetime registration. However, they must be identified by either a microchip or a collar with a tag attached that shows the name of the cat and the address or phone number of the owner.

Cats that are born before 1999 lose their exemption if they are impounded by the local council, or if they are found in breach of the Act. They also lose their exemption if they are sold or given away. This means they then must be microchipped and lifetime registered.

Technological advances have made it easier to keep track of your pet through the implantation of a microchip.

About the size of a grain of rice, a microchip contains a unique 15 digit identification number that is quickly implanted under your pet's skin between the shoulders, that can be scanned in the event that the pet is found, lost or stolen.

The details relating to this microchip include the animal's address, and the owner's contact details. The owner can also choose to list a secondary contact in case they cannot be contacted.

There is nothing stopping you registering your new kitten as soon as possible. Early microchipping and registration is highly recommended as a large percentage of kittens under 6 months of age are regularly lost from their homes.

If you sell or give away a cat, it is your responsibility as the 'old' owner to update the new owner's details on the NSW Companion Animals register at your local council, otherwise penalties may apply. Please contact your local council for further information.

Registration Cost

Registration can be completed at any NSW local council. The fees are set under legislation as follows:

- \$40 for a desexed cat;
- \$150 for an entire or undesexed cat;
- \$40 for an entire or undesexed cat owned by a registered breeder;
- \$15 for a desexed dog or cat owned by an eligible pensioner.

The above fees are one-off registration fees for each cat.



Updating your information:

When you become the owner of a cat either by purchasing the animal or being given the pet, ensure that the previous owner or breeder sends the local council a completed and signed change of owner form.

For peace of mind it is always advised that the new owner makes inquiries with the council to ensure the details are changed and as much information is provided in case your animal becomes lost or is stolen. The more information and contact numbers available on the Companion Animals Register the more likely you are to have your pet returned to you if it becomes lost.

The Register is a database that lists all dogs and cats within NSW that have been microchipped and/or registered with the local council. Recorded with their microchip number are the address where the animal is normally kept and their owner's contact details. The information on the database can only be accessed by authorised persons for the purposes of reuniting lost pets with their owners, or for updating information. All forms for the Register are available at your local council.

What to do when your cat is missing

When you notice that your cat is missing contact your local council or pound as soon as possible. Council will update your cat's record on the Register to show your cat is missing and verify that your contact details are correct. That way, when your cat is found the council or pound can return your cat to its home.



REMEMBER, ALL DOGS AND CATS IN NEW SOUTH WALES MUST BE MICROCHIPPED AND REGISTERED ON THE NSW COMPANION ANIMALS REGISTER