

Responsible Cat Ownership Information Sheet

General

As per the *Cat Act 2011* (Cat Act) all cats over the age of 6 months must be microchipped (unless exempt), sterilised (unless exempt) and registered with the Local Government where you live, by 31 October each year.

The fees for cat registrations are as follows:

| Standard Fees per Cat | | | Concession Fees per Cat | | |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|---------|------|
| 1 year | 3 year | Life | 1 year | 3 year | Life |
| \$20 | \$42.50 | \$100 | \$10 | \$21.25 | \$50 |

Concession Fees

For the 50% Concession rate on registrations you must possess and provide a:

- Pensioner Concession Card OR State Seniors Card; or
- WA Seniors Card AND a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

If you do not satisfy either of the above criteria, you will not be eligible for the Concession discount on the registration fees.

Please note the following important information regarding cats:

- Proof of exemptions for microchipping and sterilisation must be provided.
- The registered owner/agent must be 18 years of age or older.
- Proof of sterilisation is required by Veterinary Certificate. A sterilisation tattoo in the ear of the dog is also considered acceptable proof however it must be visually verified by a Registration Officer.

In addition, cats are required to wear a collar and registration tag, at all times. This will ensure your cat is easily identifiable and therefore can be returned to you if it gets lost. If your cat is wearing a collar and registration tag, people in your neighbourhood will also know the cat is owned and is not a stray cat.

Keeping Your Cat and our Wildlife Safe

Cats that are allowed to roam freely have been known to wander several kilometres from their home, often on a daily basis. Whilst out roaming they are at risk of injury and disease, not to mention their potential impact on our neighbours and wildlife.

By nature, cats are instinctive hunters and although owners are taking care of the needs of their pets, instinctive hunting will still occur. Even well fed cats roaming at night may hunt and kill possums, other small native mammals and reptiles. Birds are often targets at dawn and dusk when they are most active.

Keeping your cat indoors or in a built for purpose cat run will also protect it from fights and the subsequent infection and disease, and also eliminates the risk of your cat being run over or going missing.

Nuisance cats

Much of the feedback received from residents about stray or roaming cats is that they kill wildlife, wander on roads, mark their territory by 'spraying' on people's homes and belongings and fight with other cats. This behaviour is creating a nuisance and potential health issues for neighbours and wider community members.

Containing your cat to your property is the only way to ensure your cat is kept safe and is not creating a nuisance for your neighbours or other residents of the Town, both human and animal.

If a cat is creating a nuisance for you in the Town, the Rangers can help you with our cat-trapping program. If you know who owns the cat, please consider having a chat to them first, in the interests of good neighbourly relations. If this is not possible or you think the cat is a stray, give the Rangers a call on 9377 7480 and we can give you some tips to deter cats or organise one of our humane cat traps for you.

Cats can be difficult to handle and may cause injury to people trying to capture or interact with them. For this reason Rangers do not encourage people to try to capture or handle an unknown cat. Injuries caused by cats, even well cared for domestic pets, can result in lasting damage, infection and injury.

What Will the Ranger do With Trapped Cats?

In consideration of the health and safety of the cat and the Ranger, all trapped cats will be given a quick visual check to ensure they are not showing any signs of injury, disease or overly aggressive behavior that may require veterinarian attention, before being transported to our Animal Care Facility. Once in the facility, and when safe to do so, they will be checked for a collar, registration tag, identification tag and microchip.

In the case where a cat is identifiable, the owner will be notified of the impounding of their cat, any registration, microchipping or sterilisation requirements to meet and any fees payable to reclaim their cat.

If a cat is not identifiable and an owner does not come forward, the cat will be assessed for any health and behavioural concerns. All cats that are identified as appropriate for rehoming will be placed in a suitable rehoming program.

Tips for Responsible Cat Ownership

- Ensure your cat is sterilised, microchipped and registered with your Local Council.
- Ensure your cat wears its collar and registration tag so it is easily identifiable, bells on the collar are a great addition.
- Ensure your cat stays safe and doesn't create a nuisance, by containing it to your property, especially overnight, and particularly at dawn and dusk.
- If you are no longer able to care for your cat, do not release it into the wild or allow it to roam in the community, surrender your cat to an animal shelter or the RSPCA.

Number of Cats at a Property

The *Responsible Cat Ownership Amendment Local Law 2006* provides for the limitation on the number of cats that can be kept at a property.

The current limit is two cats without permission and up to four cats with permission.

If you would like to apply for permission to keep up more than two cats, contact the Rangers on 9377 7480.

Further information

If you are a cat owner and your cat goes missing, if you would like more information on how to be a responsible cat owner, or if you have a problem with a nuisance cat, please call the Rangers on 9377 7480.