

Microchip and register your pet



Microchipping and registration

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

Microchipping and registration is a two part process that requires dog and 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 local council by 6 months of age.

Dog owners

- Puppies, unregistered dogs or any dog sold or given away from 1 July 1999 must be microchipped and registered for life.
- Other registered dogs (except farm working dogs and greyhounds) must be microchipped and registered for life within three years if they maintain their current registration. If registration is not continued, they must be microchipped and registered.
- When in a public place, your dog is required by law to have a collar around it's neck with a tag attached that shows the dog's name and the address or phone number of the dog's owner.

Cat owners

- Kittens or any cat sold or given away from 1 July 1999 must be microchipped for life.
- Existing cats need to be identified, either through microchipping or by collar and tag.
- 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 *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

Registration fees under the Companion Animals Amendment Regulation 2005

Fees that are in force are:

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| ▪ Desexed \$58 | ▪ Non-desexed | \$210 |
| ▪ Breeder \$58 | ▪ Desexed animal owned by an eligible pensioner | \$25 |

Updating your information

When you become the owner of a dog or 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.

If you sell or give away a dog or cat, it is your responsibility as the 'old' owner to update the new owner's details on the Companion Animals Register at your local council, otherwise penalties may apply.

It is always advisable that the new owner makes enquiries 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. 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 Companion Animals Register are available at Council's Customer Service Centre.

If you ignore the rules

The rules in the *Companion Animals Act 1998* are important for pets, pet owners and other people. Dog and cat owners who ignore the rules face strong penalties, including on-the-spot fines and court action.

Fines include:

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| ▪ Animal not registered | \$275 |
| ▪ Animal not permanently identified (microchipped) | \$165 |
| ▪ Failure to remove dog faeces | \$275 |
| ▪ Dog not on lead in public place | \$220 |

For further information and other offences, refer to the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and *Companion Animals Regulation 1999* or visit the website www.dlg.nsw.gov.au.

For further information and advice on microchipping and registering your pet, contact:

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