

NEW CAT & DOG REGISTRATION & IDENTIFICATION

What is lifetime registration?

The Companion Animals Act introduced lifetime registration for cats and dogs on 1 July 1999.

You only have to register your cat or dog once under the Act. Penalties apply for not registering.

Registration fees

Undesexed dog/cat	\$192.00
Owned by registered breeder	\$52.00
Desexed dog/cat	\$52.00
Desexed and Owned by pensioner	\$21.00
Trained seeing eye or hearing dog	Free

Trained animals such as 'Seeing Eye' or 'Hearing' dogs must be microchipped and registered.

Working dogs in Rural NSW

A working dog exemption applies to a working dog that is ordinarily kept on land categorised as farmland, you do not need to have it microchipped or registered with your local council.

Hunting dogs and guard dogs do not have any special status as working dogs under the Companion Animals Act. Just because an animal is kept for purposes other than that of a pet, does not necessarily mean it is a 'working dog'.

The exemption from microchipping and lifetime registration for working dogs may be lost in the following circumstances:

- If the dog is seized and impounded;
- If the dog is declared dangerous;
- If the dog is the subject of a nuisance order;
- If the dog ceases to be a working dog.

Where do I register my cat or dog?

Animals/Pets can be registered at any Local Council. Remember, animals must be microchipped before registering at Council.

Microchipping your animal

Microchipping is a method used to permanently identify your animal and is essential before you can register your animal. This procedure involves the insertion of a microchip (about the size of a grain of rice) under the skin between the shoulders of the animal. This is carried out by a Vet or other authorised Agent, and is described as being similar to receiving an immunisation injection. The microchip contains numbers which can be read by a scanner. These numbers will identify the pet's owner through a central database. The database can be accessed by all Councils in NSW.

What do I need to provide Council with?

- Copy of NSW Companion Animal Register Registration Form.
- Proof of microchipping such as:
 - Registration form with microchip number and signature of Vet OR
 - Microchipping Certificate OR
 - Verification from Vet.
- If the animal is desexed - copy of sterilisation certificate or letter from the Vet verifying that the animal is desexed.

What happens if ownership or contact details change?

- It is the responsibility of the registered owner to notify Council where there is a change of details such as:
 - Moving house.
 - Change of ownership.
- Council needs to be notified in writing within 14 days of the change.
- The back of the Registration Certificate provides for change of details. A new certificate will then be posted to the registered owner with the updated details.
- There is no charge for change of details.
- Owners are required to notify Council if the animal dies or is missing for more than 3 days.

The registration system can only be useful in protecting your pet if it is accurate and the information is up to date.