



Responsible Cat Ownership



ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

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CARING FOR YOUR CAT

When and why should my cat be microchipped?

In NSW, all cats and dogs, must be micro-chipped by 12 weeks of age or before being sold or given away, whichever happens first.

Should your cat be lost or impounded having a microchip allows them to be scanned, identified and returned to you.

If you buy a cat in NSW that is not micro-chipped, you should report this to your local Council for investigation and further action, if appropriate.

If you sell or give your cat away or your contact details change, you must notify Council within 14 days.

Registration

All cats and dogs must be registered by six months of age. The registration fee is a once only payment, which covers the cat or dog for its lifetime in NSW, regardless of any changes in ownership. You are encouraged to have your cat or dog desexed before registering it.

Contact your local council for lifetime registration fees.

These fees are for the lifetime of the animal anywhere in NSW.

Care essentials

Although your cat may act independently and be litter trained, they still count on you to provide them with food, water, safe shelter, regular veterinary care, companionship, and more. Take care of these essentials, and you'll be guaranteed to develop a rewarding relationship with your feline companion.

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- All cats must be registered by six months of age. The registration fee is a once-only payment, which covers the cat for its life-time in NSW, regardless of any changes in ownership. You are encouraged to have your cat desexed before registering it.
- If your contact details change, you sell or give away your cat you must notify your local Council with 14 days.
- Outfit your cat with a breakaway collar, microchip and ID tag that includes your name and telephone number. No matter how careful you are, there's a chance your companion may slip out the door—an ID tag greatly increases the chance that your cat will be returned home safely.

- Keep your cat indoors. Keeping your cat safely confined at all times is best for you, your pet, and your community and local wildlife.
- Take your cat to the veterinarian for regular check ups. If you do not have a veterinarian, ask your local animal shelter or a pet-owning friend for a referral.
- Desex your pet. This will keep them healthier and will reduce the problem of cat overpopulation. Contact your local Council regarding any available subsidises for desexing.
- Give your cat a nutritionally balanced diet, including constant access to fresh water. Ask your veterinarian or petshop for advice on what and how often to feed your pet.
- Train your cat to refrain from undesirable behaviours such as scratching furniture and jumping on counter tops. Contrary to popular belief, cats can be trained with a bit of patience, effort, and understanding on your part.
- Groom your cat often to keep her coat healthy, soft, and shiny. Although it is especially important to brush long haired cats to prevent their hair from matting, even short haired felines need to be groomed to remove as much loose hair as possible. When cats groom themselves, they ingest a great deal of hair, which often leads to hairballs.
- Set aside time to play with your cat. While cats do not need the same level of exercise that dogs do, enjoying regular play sessions with your pet will provide him with the physical exercise and mental stimulation he needs, as well as strengthen the bond you share.
- Be loyal to and patient with your cat. Make sure the expectations you have of your companion are reasonable and remember that the vast majority of behaviour problems can be solved. If you are struggling with your pet's behaviour, contact your veterinarian or local animal shelter for advice.

NUISANCE ORDERS

Council may issue a nuisance order if your cat is repeatedly:

- Making noise
- Causing damage to property

The order will require you to prevent the behaviour

causing the problem. If you don't comply you may be fined up to \$550.00.

COST OF OWNING A CAT

Cats can live for up to 20 years, so on top of the initial costs for the first year, you may be looking at additional \$880 per year minimum for the duration of the cats life. The final figure may be more, or less, depending on the cat, breed, age, size and any illness or accidents etc.

Upfront Costs

- Purchase of Cat - \$0 - \$2000
- Microchip - \$60
- Council Registration - \$51 - \$188 (Dexxed/Non Dexxed)
- Worm/Flea Treatment - \$100
- Kitten Vaccinations - \$170 - \$200
- Carry Cage and Bed - \$50 - \$100
- Desexing - \$115 - \$300 (Male/Female) approx
- Collar and Bell - \$15 - \$50
- Scratching Post - \$20 - \$300
- Tray and Litter - \$130 - \$180
- Grooming - \$50 and upwards (depending on breed frequency of grooming required can vary)
- Toys and Treats - \$30 and upwards
- Food and Bowls - \$370 and upwards (depending on quality)

Total for first Year - \$1150 - \$3570

*Please note that all the figures above are approximate and are purely a guide to what it may cost for cat ownership.

Ongoing Costs

- Worm/Flea Treatment - \$100 - \$150 yearly
- Yearly Vaccination Vet Check - From \$80
- Litter - \$120 upwards
- Grooming - \$50
- Toys and Treats - \$30 and upwards
- Food - \$500 approx and upwards

Total for Consecutive Year - \$880 minimum