



What do our new cat laws mean for you and your feline friend?

As from 1 November 2013, all domestic cats in Western Australia, over six months of age, will need to be sterilised, microchipped and registered with their local government as the full *Cat Act 2011* comes into effect.

What does this mean for you and your feline friend?

From **1 November 2013**, all cats that have reached six months of age are required to be:

- Microchipped;
- Sterilised; and
- Registered with the relevant local government.

Your cat will be required to wear a collar and registration tag to ensure they can be easily identified and returned to you if they become lost.

My cat is very old – do I still need to have it sterilised?

Yes, our legislation applies to all cats of all ages.

However, your vet can issue an exemption certificate if sterilising your cat is likely to have a negative impact on your cat's health and welfare.

How does this affect cat breeders?

The legislation requires that a person who chooses to breed cats must apply to their local government for a permit.

When a cat is sold or given away, the seller must ensure the cat is microchipped and sterilised prior to transfer.

If the cat cannot be sterilised due to its health or age, the seller must issue a prepaid sterilisation voucher to the new owner.

What concessions or assistance will be available for pensioners or low income earners?

The Government has provided funding to assist and provide low cost sterilisation for cats owned by pensioners and people on low income.

Pensioners will also receive a discount on registration fees.



Cat Owner Fact Sheet:

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Where can I get more information?

For more information, including tips for being a responsible cat owner, visit the Department of Local Government and Communities' Responsible Cat Ownership web page at:

<http://dlg.wa.gov.au/Content/Legislation/ResponsibleCatOwnership.aspx>

or contact your local government.

A directory of local governments is available at <http://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au>

What is the purpose of the *Cat Act 2011*?

Our new cat laws are about encouraging responsible pet ownership and reducing the number of unwanted cats in the community and the number that are euthanised each year.

The full *Cat Act 2011* will take effect from **1 November 2013** and will require all cats that have reached six months of age to be:

- Microchipped;
- Sterilised; and
- Registered with the relevant local government.