

Responsible Cat Ownership

As a cat owner you are responsible to ensure that your cat is well looked after.

In addition it is important that cat owners respect other people in the community. This can be achieved by keeping your cat adequately confined to your property to reduce complaints in relation to car accidents, noise, destruction of the environment and killing of wildlife.

The Cat Act 2011

The *Cat Act 2011* took full effect from 1 November 2013.

The act provides for better management of the unwanted impacts of cats on the community and the environment, as well as encourage responsible cat ownership.

All cats that have reached 6 months of age must be:

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

Cats are required to wear a collar and registration tag to ensure that owned cats can be easily identified and returned to their owner.

This brochure includes important information that all current and future cat owners need to know.



Where can I get more information?

For more information visit the Department of Local Government and Communities Responsible Cat Ownership web page at:
www.dlhc.wa.gov.au/cats
or contact the Shire of Lake Grace



Shire of Lake Grace

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Shire of Lake Grace



Important Information for Cat Owners





Your Responsibilities

Registration/Microchipping/Sterilisation

As from the 1 November 2013 all cats over the age of 6 months are required to be:

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



All cats must wear a collar with their registration tag attached so your cat can be easily identified and returned home quickly.

Registration forms can be found on the Shire of Lake Grace website, www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au

Cat Breeders

Did you know even if you wish to only breed one litter from your cat, you are considered a cat breeder.

If you are a current cat breeder or wish to become a breeder you must apply for a cat breeding permit from your local government. These permits are valid for 12 months. A fee is payable.

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.



Number of Cats

The legislation does not limit the number of cats that can be owned. This will fall to local governments who may choose to introduce a local law.

If a local government introduces a local law limiting cat numbers, it will not apply to cats currently owned. However an owner will not be able to replace a cat if it is sold, given away or dies, until they are down to the required number.



Cat Curfew

Although there is no legal curfew on cats, many organisations including Councils encourage cat owners to confine their cats to their premises. Keeping your cat in at night is good for neighbourly relations and avoids the cat calling, or "yowling", killing of wildlife, along with other cat related complaints. Consideration of other people's property and environment should be taken seriously by all cat owners.

Cat Health

It is your responsibility to ensure your cat is properly cared for and healthy. Your cat requires fresh water, adequate amount of quality food, exercise and shelter. Cats do not always show pain like humans. It is important to have your cat regularly checked by a veterinarian to help prevent health problems.



Millions of pets are euthanized each year due to overpopulation. If you are planning on breeding, be a responsible breeder not a backyard breeder. If not planning to breed, be responsible and sterilise your pet.

Lost Cats

You should notify your local government as soon as you know your cat is missing. You will need to provide your details, cat description, where and when your cat went missing. Having your cat microchipped and registered will help identify your cat and return them home quickly.

Sterilisation Exemption

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

Benefits of Cat Ownership

Cats make great pets! They are quiet, clean and they don't need a lot of space or exercise. Compared to dogs, cats cope better with being left alone when owners are at work. Cats provide excellent company. They can be playful and affectionate, yet can still be very independent.



To ensure that your cat is looked after and you meet your responsibilities as a cat owner please use the below checklist.

Responsible Cat Ownership Checklist



- Keep your cat confined to your property, especially at night.
- Ensure your cat is easily identifiable with a collar and a name tag.
- Microchip your cat.
- Sterilise your cat.
- Vaccinate your cat.
- Register your cat with the relevant local government.

