

Cats

In 2011, the state government introduced legislation called the *Cat Act 2011*. The new cat law aims to encourage responsible pet ownership and reduce the number of unwanted cats in the community. The legislation is state wide and requirements will not vary between local governments.

From 1 November 2013, all domestic cats aged six months and older are required by law to be:

- Registered with local government;
- Sterilised (unless used for breeding by a registered breeder);
- Micro-chipped so they can be returned to their owners if lost, stolen or straying from their owner's property;
- Wearing a registration tag issued by the local government where the cat is registered.

Whilst owners are not required to sterilise or microchip their cats **until 1 November 2013**, the Shire of Northam encourages responsible pet ownership and recommends that cat owners sterilise and microchip their cat/s before this date in preparation.

Facts about the Cat Act

Only 2 cats are permitted to be registered to a property;
All cats must be micro-chipped, sterilised then registered;
Cat owners are encouraged to ensure that their cat(s) are not wandering or causing a nuisance.

Registration Fees

The cost for cat owners to register their cats has been determined by the state government.

1 year	\$ 20.00
3 years	\$ 42.50
Lifetime	\$100.00
Breeder	\$100.00
Pensioner	50% of fee's (pensioner concession card)

Exemption from Sterilisation and Micro-chipping

If there is a health reason that prevents your cat from being sterilised or micro-chipped, documentation from your vet advising that surgery would have an adverse effect on your cat's health will be required when submitting your cat's registration.

Benefits of Micro-chipping

Apart from being a legal requirement for all cats to be sterilised and micro-chipped after 1 November 2013, it should be noted that micro-chipping of pet animals is a safe and effective means of ensuring that, if these animals become lost, it is an easy process to reunite them with their owners.

Approval to Breed Cats

You will first require Town Planning approval before a cattery can be approved from the Shire of Northam to breed cats, even for one litter.

Approval to keep 3-4 Cats

You will require approval from the Shire of Northam to keep more than two cats on your property. (form available on web page)