

# Let's talk about deSEXing, baby!



Annual permits for non-desexed cats from 1 July 2020. Desex your cat now and never pay the annual permit.

## What are the new annual permits about?

From 1 July 2020 owners of cats not desexed by four months of age will be required to pay an \$80 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration fee.

## Why are annual permits being introduced?

Annual permits for non-desexed cats:

- ✓ create a stronger incentive to desex cats and improve their health and wellbeing
- ✓ lower demand on pounds and shelters

- ✓ reduce euthanasia rates
- ✓ help address concerns about feral, stray and roaming cats
- ✓ help protect our wildlife

The Government has also made a one-off \$10 reduction to the lifetime cat registration fee to encourage higher registration rates and adoption of cats from pounds and shelters.



**petregistry**  
.nsw.gov.au

## What are the benefits of desexing?

Desexing your cat before four months of age:

- ✓ prevents unwanted litters
- ✓ prevents disease and illness including some forms of cancer
- ✓ prevents straying and spraying
- ✓ increases longevity

## Are there exemptions for annual permits?

Cats that cannot be desexed, either temporarily or permanently, are exempt from paying an annual permit. A certificate from your vet is required to qualify for this exemption.

Exemptions are also in place for cat breeders who are members of a recognised cat breeding body.

## How will cat owners pay for the annual permits?

From 1 July 2020, cat owners will be able to pay for annual permits using the NSW Pet Registry website, or through their local council.

Anyone registering a cat on the NSW Pet Registry will be informed that they must pay for an \$80 annual permit if their animal is not desexed by four months of age.

## Where will the revenue raised from the annual permits go?

Pet registration fees and annual permit fees go directly back to the local community through local councils to fund:

- ✓ animal pounds/shelters
- ✓ ranger services
- ✓ dog recreation areas
- ✓ education and awareness programs

They also fund operation of the Government's NSW Pet Registry and the Responsible Pet Ownership Education Program in our pre-schools and primary schools.

## What is the penalty if pet owners don't have an annual permit and get caught?

Cat owners risk an on-the-spot fine of \$400 if they require an annual permit and don't have one.

If taken to court, a maximum penalty of \$5,500 for non-desexed cats may apply.

## Where can I get further information?

Visit the **Office of Local Government website at [olg.nsw.gov.au](http://olg.nsw.gov.au)**