

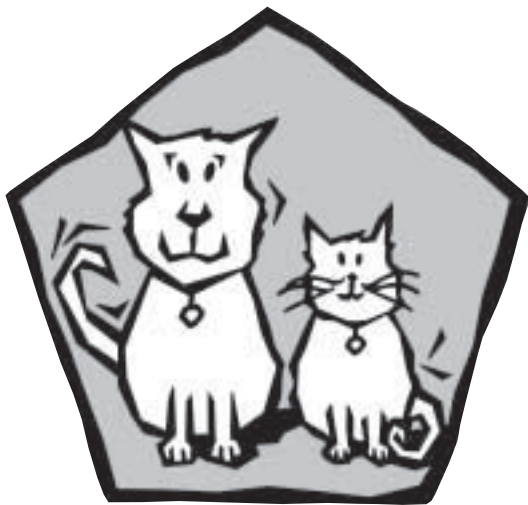
# Pet Registration

Every dog and cat three months of age and over must be registered with the owner's local Council. Existing registrations must be renewed by 10 April each year.

## Why register?

Registering your dog and cat is a safeguard against losing your pet if it becomes lost.

In addition, your registration fees help provide important pet related services within your municipality such as animal control and community education about responsible pet ownership.



## Registration fees

The types and levels of fees are set by your local Council, and vary depending on a number of factors. Contact your Council to find out which fees apply to your pet.

You are eligible for reduced registration fees if your pet:

- is de-sexed; or
- has an obedience certificate issued by a Government approved organisation; or
- is permanently identified with a microchip; or
- is over 10 years of age; or
- is kept for working stock; or
- is kept for breeding by the proprietor of a registered breeding establishment

You also get reduced registration fees if you are a member of a pet organisation approved by the Minister.

Pensioners who have approved concession cards issued by the Department of Social Security and Department of Veterans' Affairs are also entitled to a reduction in their fees.

## Identification

When you register your pet, your local Council will give you a numbered registration marker. The marker is required to be on the dog or cat when the animal is outside the owner's premises. If your pet loses its marker a new one can be obtained from your local Council.

Not only is it a legal requirement for your pet to have identification, but the marker will also assist the return of your pet in the event that it becomes lost. Council Animal Control Officers can identify your pet by the registration number on the marker, and let you know your pet has been found.



It is also a good idea for your pet to wear a separate ID tag with its name, phone number and address, so that you can be alerted if your pet is found outside your property.

## What you get for your registration fees

- supply of Council identification marker;
- Lost & Found animal service – a guarantee that if your pet is found wearing the Council identification marker you will be notified;
- Animal Control Service – responds to problems including reports of dog attacks, or complaints about animals wandering on private property;
- Nuisance Service – to help solve animal barking, straying and spraying problems;
- public education about responsible pet ownership;
- Council's monitoring and enforcement of legislation regarding minimum animal welfare standards in animal businesses. These include pet shops, Council pounds, animal welfare shelters, breeding and dog training establishments; and
- general advice about pet care.

## More than the minimum number of pets?

Permits are required when there are more than the minimum number of dogs or cats kept in a household. This number is set by your Council, and varies across the State. The number is set to ensure that pets are kept in a healthy environment and that neighbours are not inconvenienced.

## Renew registration every year

Don't forget to renew your registration each year, and to transfer your pet's registration if you move to a new municipality. Pet owners who do not comply with animal registration laws face penalties.

And remember...if you really care about your dog or cat, then register it!

For more information about responsible pet ownership, contact your local Council, vet, animal welfare organisation, or dog/cat ownership association or visit [www.pets.info.vic.gov.au](http://www.pets.info.vic.gov.au) or call the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 (for the cost of a local call).

For a comprehensive listing of pet organisations, visit the website above.