Caring for your Cat

For the comfort, safety and health of the whole community, the Companion Animals Act 1998 places responsibilities on cat owners.

All cat owners have a responsibility to their cat, their community and the environment. The Cat Protection Society of NSW works with the community for the mutual benefit of cats, people and the natural environment and offers a range of educational responsible cat ownership materials - visit **catprotection.org.au**.

Cats can be declared a nuisance if they:

- attack native wildlife
- destroy other peoples property
- cause too much noise.

MICROCHIPPING AND REGISTRATION

In NSW, you are legally required to have your pet microchipped and registered by 12 weeks of age. Registration costs are discounted when your cat is desexed. **Annual permits** apply for **undesexed cats** and cats registered after four months of age. For further details visit **ballina.nsw.gov.au/register-your-pet**

If you move, it is important to update your details with the local council. You can also keep your details up to date online at **petreg.nsw.gov.au**

It is also a requirement to have a tag on your cat's collar with your contact details, and a bell to warn birds and native animals that your cat is near.

SHOULD I DESEX MY CAT?

All owners are encouraged to desex their cat. The cost of registration is less for a desexed animal, especially for pensioners.

- Early desexing eliminates the risk of serious diseases including reproductive cancers.
- Desexed cats grow up cleaner, healthier, quieter and more home loving.
- Desexing significantly reduces antisocial behaviour such as fighting and spraying
- Desexed cats are less aggressive than entire cats.

KEEP YOUR CAT AT HOME

Indoor cats live longer, healthier lives if they don't roam away from home as they're protected from dangers such as traffic, fights with other animals and exposure to diseases. By keeping your cat inside your property, you'll also be helping to protect native wildlife.

To keep your indoor cat content:

- Provide toys and cardboard boxes for games.
- Engage in interactive play with your cat.
- Offer a scratching post to deter furniture scratching.
- Include cat grass for interest and distraction.
- Ensure a sunny spot for basking, but be cautious with white cats and sun exposure.

Cats should never be fed until it is time for them to be confined. Once you invite them in to be fed, keep them in for the night. For those who don't like cats indoors at all then the garden shed or garage is a suitable alternative for confinement.

FURTHER INFORMATION Planning and Environmental Health Division T 1300 864 444
The NSW Office of Local Government **olg.nsw.gov.au**
ballina.nsw.gov.au/dog-and-cat-ownership

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

Keep your cats indoors to prevent roaming and increase their life expectancy. Cats sleep up to 20 hours a day so provide companionship and entertainment for waking hours.

- Desex your cat. De-sexed cats typically live longer and wander, fight and spray-mark territory less than undesexed cats.
- Have a scratching post, shelves, boxes and toys to keep your cats amused. Cats love a window seat.
- Provide a clean litter tray.
- Consider having an outdoor enclosure as this protects your cat and native wildlife too.
- Cats are prohibited from all Wildlife Protection Areas.
- Report stray or roaming cats to Council as soon as you see them - call 1300 864 444.

NUISANCE CATS

A cat causing repeated damage or persistent noise outside its property may be declared a nuisance. The owner could receive a nuisance cat order, and non-compliance may result in fines.

IF YOUR CAT IS MISSING

If you notice your cat is missing contact Council's Public and Environmental Health Division as soon as possible. Report a missing pet online at **ballina.nsw.gov.au**

You can also update your NSW Pet Registry profile to report missing pets. This locks your information so ownership details cannot be changed while they are missing.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

If you sell or give away a cat, it is your responsibility to notify Council of the new owner's details so that the NSW Pet Registry can be updated.

Download the Change of Owner/Details Form at **ballina. nsw.gov.au/register-your-pet**. You can also 'Transfer a Pet' online at **petreg.nsw.gov.au**

If you are the new owner, you can submit the Change of Owner/Details form to Council if the old owner has signed the paperwork or proof of sale is provided.

IF YOUR CAT DIES

Please notify Council so your cat's name can be removed from the NSW Pet Registry.

10 essential tips for cat owners

1. Do not allow your cat to roam.

2. Ensure your cat wears a collar and bell.

3. Avoid unwanted kittens, have your cat desexed.

4. Ensure your cat is microchipped and registered by 12 weeks of age.

5. Do not allow your cat out at night.

6. Ask your neighbours if your cat creates any nuisance problems, and work to correct the issues.

7. Do not allow your cat to enter local bushland or attack native wildlife.

8. Keep your cat healthy and happy.

9. Avoid nuisance problems caused by boredom.

10. Make sure you really want a cat and are prepared to care for it before acquiring one.

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