

# Information for Cat Owners

To ensure the comfort, safety and health of the whole community, The Companion Animals Act 1998 places various responsibilities on cat owners.



## microchipping and registration

Cats must be microchipped by the time they are 12 weeks old, at the time of sale or change of ownership (whichever occurs first).

Cats must be registered with their local Council by 6 months of age.

Cats born before July 1999 (before the commencement of the Companion Animals Act) are not required to be microchipped or registered. However they must be identified by either a collar with a tag attached that shows the name of the cat and the address or contact number of the owner. They will lose their exemption to be microchipped or registered if they are:

- impounded by the Council
- found in breach of the Companion Animals Act
- sold or given away.

## registration costs

Registration fees increase with CPI from 1 July each year.

Visit [ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://ballina.nsw.gov.au) for current registration fee details.

## keeping your cat under control

Council encourages cat owners to keep their cats inside at night to:

- protect native wildlife
- protect their cat
- reduce the likelihood of their cat causing a nuisance to neighbours by damaging their property or creating excessive noise.

A cat that repeatedly damages anything outside the property on which it is ordinarily kept or makes noise that persistently occurs and unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premise may be declared a nuisance cat. Council may issue the owner of a nuisance cat a nuisance cat order. Failure to comply with this order may lead to an on-the-spot-fine.

If you sell or give away a cat, it is **your** responsibility to notify Council of the new owner's details so that the Companion Animals register can be updated

However, the **new owner** 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 is missing

When you notice that your cat is missing contact Council's Public & Environmental Health Section as soon as possible.

Council will update the Animal Register to show your cat is missing and make sure that your contact details are correct. This will make it a lot easier when your cat is found.

### if you are moving house

If you move house ensure you notify Council by using the Change of Address Notice form. This will allow Council to update your details on the NSW Companion Animals Register.

### if your cat dies

If your cat was registered, notify Council so your cat's name can be removed from the NSW Companion Animals Register.

#### Further Information

Planning and Environmental Health Division  
Ph: 02 6686 1210  
[ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://ballina.nsw.gov.au)



## 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
5. do not allow your cat out at night
6. ask your neighbours if your cat creates any nuisance problems, and correct them
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.