

# CATS



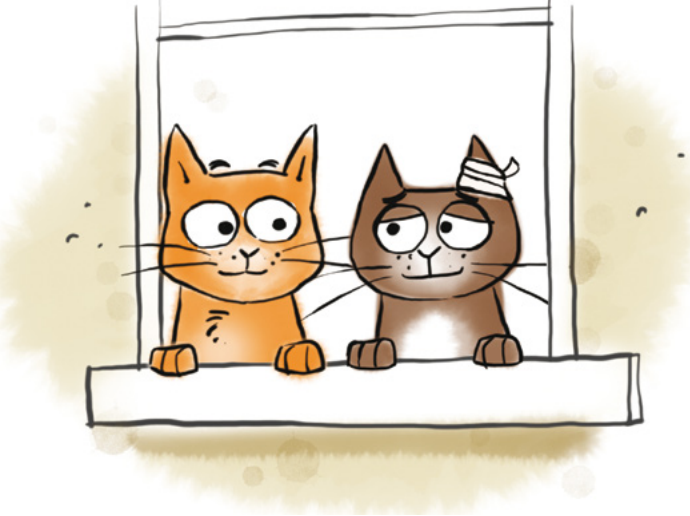
## Legal Responsibilities and Your Responsibilities

The State Government has specific legislation regarding cats in WA. The Cat Act 2011 and the associated regulations and local laws are administered and enforced by Local Governments. The Act outlines registration for cats, microchipping, sterilisation and the obligations and rights of owners and others.

Having a cat in your life can be a wonderful experience. To keep your cat safe and in good health they should have access to clean water, be safely confined to your property and regular visits to the vet to keep vaccinations up to date.

Infringements may be issued by the City for a number of offences, such as:

- failing to register your cat;
- failing to microchip your cat; and
- failing to sterilise your cat.



## Happy at Home

The City of Kwinana encourages cat owners to confine their pets to their properties and not to let them wander. This is for the safety of the cat and the native flora and fauna. Cats can pass on deadly diseases, like toxoplasmosis, to the native animal population.

Cats are happiest and healthiest at home with you and can be contained safely and cheaply to their own properties by creating cat enclosures called 'catios', or by using lightweight mesh or fence-top rollers. These also keep other cats out, reducing the risk of fights and associated injuries.

Keeping cats happy at home extends their average life expectancy from just three years to between 12 and 18 years, while helping preserve the 46 per cent of Australia's threatened fauna that live in our City and surrounding areas.

To find out more about how you can keep your feline companion happy at home visit [www.southwestgroup.com.au/happyathome](http://www.southwestgroup.com.au/happyathome)

## Registration, Microchipping and Sterilisation

The Cat Act 2011 requires all cats that have reached six months of age to be microchipped, sterilised and registered with your Local Government. A numbered registration tag (which you receive on registration of your cat) must be placed on your cat's collar, as well as an identification tag displaying a contact number and/or name and address of the owner.

In Kwinana, cat registration fees contribute to the upkeep of our local Animal Care Facility and supports the City Assist Team to service the community.

Registering and having your cat microchipped is important in the event that if they are ever lost. Vets and the City Assist Team are able to check registration tags and scan pets for a microchip so they can be reunited with their owner as soon as possible.

Cat registrations can be applied for either yearly, every three years or lifetime, for those who have a one or three year registration these need to be renewed prior to 1 November of the expiring year.

To renew your cat registration you can pay online at [www.kwinana.wa.gov.au](http://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au), in person at the City's Administration Building or via post.

New cat registrations can be made in person at the City's Administration Building, corner Gilmore Avenue and Sulphur Road, Kwinana, or via email and post with an electronic copy of the Cat registration form available on the City's website. When all the paperwork has been completed including microchip



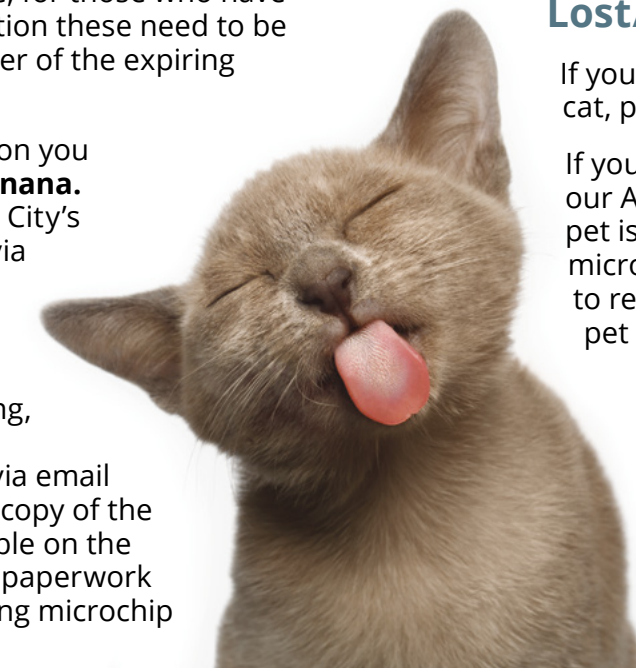
details and proof of sterilisation paperwork, payment can be made by cash, EFTPOS, cheque or credit card.

If you have changed any details including address or the cat's ownership details have changed, please contact the City. Current cat registrations are transferable between Councils within Western Australia. You will also need to contact the microchip registry to change your details.

## Lost/Found Cats

If you have lost your cat or found a cat, please contact the City.

If your cat has been taken to our Animal Care Facility your pet is required to be registered, microchipped and sterilised prior to release. Fees apply to have your pet released.



## Cat Trapping

Due to animal welfare concerns, the City does not condone trapping of cats by members of the public, which may be in breach of the WA Animal Welfare Act 2002.

City's authorised staff on council owned property only may have cause to undertake trapping as required. However welfare of the cats always comes first, utilising purpose built traps in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

## Cat Deterrents

There a number of safe ways to deter wandering cats from your property.

- Put a sprinkler on, cats don't like getting wet.
- Use an ultrasonic deterrent or a natural spray.
- Place chicken wire or gutter guard over garden beds.
- Install cat proof fencing.

## Natural Cat Deterrents:

- citrus peels and sprays;
- garlic;
- cinnamon;
- lemongrass;
- eucalyptus;
- citronella; and
- vinegar.

You will also find cat-deterrent products in most pet stores.

If you are having problems with a cat in your area please contact the City.



## For More Information

For more information on responsible cat ownership in Kwinana, please contact the City on **9439 0200** or [customer@kwinana.wa.gov.au](mailto:customer@kwinana.wa.gov.au) or visit the City's website [www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/cats](http://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/cats)

### Additional Resources and Contacts:

- Happy at Home [www.southwestgroup.com.au/happyathome](http://www.southwestgroup.com.au/happyathome)
- Cat Haven **9442 3600** [www.cathaven.com.au](http://www.cathaven.com.au)
- Kwinana Veterinary Clinic **9419 1346**
- Challenger Vet Hospital **9419 4133**
- RSPCA **9209 9300** [www.rspca.org.au](http://www.rspca.org.au)

## Responsible Pet Ownership in Kwinana



Pets are an important part of the family, put your pet's health and safety first, be a responsible pet owner.

# DOGS

## Legal Responsibilities and Your Responsibilities

The State Government has specific legislation regarding dogs in Western Australia. The Dog Act 1976 and the associated regulations and local laws established are administered and enforced by Local Governments. The Act outlines the control and registration of dogs, the ownership and keeping of dogs, and the obligations and rights of owners and others.

Having a dog in your life can be a wonderful experience. You will need to spend time exercising and training your dog. To keep your dog safe and in good health your dog should have access to clean water, a safely enclosed backyard and regular visits to the vet to keep vaccinations up to date.

Infringements may be issued by the City for a number of offences, such as:

- walking your dog without a lead in a public place;
- failing to register and/or have your dog microchipped;
- not picking up your dog's poo; and
- not having proper control of your dog.



## Registration and Microchipping

The Dog Act 1976 requires that all dogs over the age of three months are to be microchipped and registered with the Local Government. A numbered registration tag (which you receive on registration of your dog) must be placed on your dog's collar.

In Kwinana, dog registration fees contribute to the upkeep of our local Animal Care Facility and supports the City Assist Team to service the community.

Registering and having your dog microchipped is important in the event that if they are ever lost. Vets and the City Assist Team are able to check registration tags and scan for your dog's microchip so that they can be quickly reunited with their owners.

Dog registrations can be applied for either yearly, every three years or lifetime, for those who have a one or three year registration these need to be renewed prior to 1 November of the expiring year.

To renew your dog registration you can pay online at [www.kwinana.wa.gov.au](http://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au), in person at the City's Administration Building or via post.

New dog registrations can be made in person at the City's Administration Building, corner Gilmore Avenue and Sulphur Road, Kwinana, or via email and post with an electronic copy of the dog registration form available on the City's website. When all the paperwork has been completed including microchip details and sterilisation paperwork (if applicable), payment can be made by, cash, EFTPOS, cheque or credit card.

For the latest registration fees, please refer to the City's website.

If your details change or the dog's ownership details have changed, please contact the City.

Current dog registrations are transferable between Councils within Western Australia. You will also need to contact the microchip registry to change your details.

## Lost/Found Dogs

If you have lost your dog or found a dog, please contact the City.

If your dog has been taken to our Animal Care Facility, your pet is required to be registered and microchipped prior to release. Fees apply to have your pet released.

## Keeping More Than Two Dogs

An application is required to keep more than two dogs per property. To apply please contact the City to request an application. A non-refundable application fee applies.

## Nuisance Barking

As an owner or person responsible, you must ensure that, your dog is not creating a nuisance by such things as barking excessively or causing a nuisance to your neighbours. It is your responsibility as a dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to ensure that if your dog is causing a nuisance that you take measures to control this.

If you believe your dog is barking excessively, it may be experiencing loneliness, anxiety, ill health, need training and/or regular exercise.

Information on how to deal with nuisance barking can be found on the Department of Local

Government website [www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/community/cats-and-dogs](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/community/cats-and-dogs)

If you believe that you are being impacted by nuisance barking, please contact the City.

## Restricted Breeds

The Dog Act 1976 requires that owners of Pit Bull Terriers, American Pit Bull Terriers, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa and Perro de Prensa Canario (or crosses of these breeds), must have their dogs on a lead and muzzled at all times in public places. The owner or persons responsible for these dogs must ensure the dogs are suitably confined on the property. These dogs must also be registered annually, microchipped and sterilised.

People who own a restricted breed are also subject to annual property inspections by City authorised Officers.

## Declared Dangerous Dogs

Due to the nature or actions related to a dog, the City has the authority to declare the dog as dangerous. The owner of a declared dangerous dog will be advised of additional requirements that they must be complied with. Failure to comply with the declared dangerous dog requirements may result in legal action from the City.

These dogs must be registered annually, microchipped and will be subject to annual property inspections by City authorised Officers, inspections incur an additional fee.



## Dog Attacks

A dog attack is a very serious matter. If your dog attacks a person, or another animal, you may be responsible even if you are not present at the time. A person who has been attacked may also take civil legal action for any injury or damage. A dog attack includes a dog aggressively rushing at or attempting to attack a person or animal, as well as tearing clothing, biting or causing physical injury.

If you or your dog are involved in a dog attack, seek appropriate veterinary/medical assistance, and then contact the City immediately on **9439 0200**.

## Dog Exercise Areas/Dogs in Public

When taking your dog into a public place it is important that the dog be on a lead at all times. Failure to do so may result in an infringement from the City.

Located within the City are a number of declared dog exercise areas. Dog owners can exercise their dogs without a lead in these declared areas, provided the dog is under proper supervision and under effective control at all times. If you believe that you can not do this or have proper control, then it is advisable that your dog remains on a lead at all times when in these declared dog exercise areas as well.

Dog exercise areas in the City of Kwinana can be found on the website [www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/dogs](http://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/dogs)

## Picking up After Your Dog

Please ensure you pick up after your dog immediately, failure to do so may result in an infringement under the Dog Local Law 2010.

The City has placed 'dog poo' bags at many convenient locations, but we suggest that you carry your own bags for this purpose.

	<b>For More Information</b>
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