

## Did you know?

Owners of non-desexed cats over 4 months of age must pay for a permit annually. Owners of non-desexed dogs over 6 months of age must pay a once-only additional fee. These fees are in addition to registration. Companion animals purchased from a recognised pound/shelter receive free lifetime registration.

## Steps you can take to avoid these fees

Consult your vet on the best time to desex your pet, this may differ between the breed – some vets recommend delaying desexing and in those circumstances, the vet should provide a delayed desexing letter that can be used to delay paying the additional fee (the registration must still be paid).

If your companion animal has been desexed by the prescribed time frame, ask your vet for a Certificate of Sterilisation to produce to council. This certificate must be dated before 4 months old for cats, and before 6 months old for dogs to benefit from the reduced fees.

## The benefits of desexing cats and dogs

- Desexed animals are less likely (or even unable) to get certain diseases such as mammary, uterine and ovarian problems in females, as well as prostate and testicular problems in males.
- Desexing may reduce behavioural problems such as roaming, spraying and urine-marking.
- Reducing the desire to roam lowers the risk of your pet escaping and getting into accidents, becoming lost or contracting some diseases transmitted through interaction with infected animals.
- Desexing prevents unwanted pregnancy as well as associated urges that may change behaviour.

