

Desexing and microchipping your cat

The fast facts

There are many benefits of having your cat desexed. Desexing:



Stops unwanted litters, reducing the problem and costs of unwanted pets in the community



Reduces undesirable behaviours, such as spraying, marking, fighting, yowling and roaming



Increases your cat's life expectancy



Having your cat desexed

Desexing your cat is required by law, but it is also the socially responsible thing to do for a number of reasons.

Uncontrolled cat breeding is a big problem in Tasmania. If more cats are desexed, there will be fewer unwanted cats and kittens in our community. There are far too many cats already and not enough homes for them all, with cat management facilities and shelters often full to capacity and stretched for resources.

A cat has an average of four kittens per litter and can have two or more litters per year. Each cat must be fed,

wormed, vaccinated and treated for fleas **Under the *Cat Management Act 2009, effective 1 March 2022* cats must be microchipped and desexed by four months of age. Cats can reach sexual maturity by as early as four months of age.**

It is also a legal requirement that each cat must be microchipped and desexed before being sold or given away.

There are exemptions to desexing and microchipping rules, for example for certain medical conditions or for registered breeders.

If you do not have your cat desexed:



Females spray and seek males when 'in season'



Female cats 'in season' often yowl, roll on the floor and are agitated until they are let out



Male cats fight over females which may lead to injury, infection and disease

Having your cat desexed

What is involved?

Desexing is the surgical sterilisation of your kitten or cat under a general anaesthetic and only a qualified veterinary surgeon can undertake this procedure. A tattoo will be placed on the inside of your cat's left ear to signify they have been desexed.

Your vet will attend to the post-operative requirements of your cat and normally cats are ready to go home a few hours after the procedure. Your vet will also give you detailed advice on how to properly care for your cat at home in the days following surgery.

Desexing does not affect the personality traits of your cat.

What is the cost of desexing?

The cost of desexing your cat will vary based on its sex, age and the fees of your selected vet. A desexed cat has a reduced risk of many health issues that can be costly to treat, saving you money in the longer term.

Discounted desexing

The National Desexing Network

The National Desexing Network (NDN) is a nationwide referral system for discounted desexing made available to pet owners in financial need.

The NDN's goal is to end pet overpopulation by making this service more affordable to those who might not otherwise be in a position to desex their pets.

Discount desexing vouchers from NDN are only available to individuals holding a pension, concession or healthcare card showing a CRN number.

Visit www.ndn.org.au for more details and to find a participating vet clinic near you.

To contact the NDN call 1300 368 992.

Discount Desexing in July

Each year, during National Desexing Month (July), selected vet clinics in Tasmania promote desexing and generously offer special deals to encourage the community to desex their pet in July before the spring breeding season. Contact your local vet clinic for more information.

Having your cat microchipped

What is a microchip?

A microchip is a small electronic identification tag that is inserted by needle just under the skin between your cat's shoulder blades.

The procedure is quick, safe, easy and side effects are very uncommon. The microchip is implanted permanently, making it much more reliable than a tag on your cat's collar.

How does it work?

If your cat ever goes missing and ends up at a cat management facility, vet or shelter, it will be scanned with a microchip reader to check for a microchip. The microchip contains a unique identification number that is linked to you, the owner, through an online microchip registry.

The microchip registry safely stores your address and contact details so that your cat can be returned to you. All cats that enter a cat management facility must be scanned for microchip identification.

If you move or change your phone number, make sure you update your details with the online registry. Visit www.petaddress.com.au to find out where your cat's microchip details are lodged.

What is the cost of microchipping?

Microchipping is a low-cost procedure. Contact your local vet clinic to find out more information.

For more information visit: www.tassiecat.com

Thanks to Good Cat SA for their great information regarding desexing.

