

Let's talk about deSEXing, baby!



Annual permits for non-desexed cats from 1 July 2020. Desex your cat now and never pay the annual permit.

What are the new annual permits about?

From 1 July 2020 owners of cats not desexed by four months of age will be required to pay an \$80 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration fee.

Why are annual permits being introduced?

Annual permits for non-desexed cats:

- ✓ create a stronger incentive to desex cats and improve their health and wellbeing
- ✓ lower demand on pounds and shelters

- ✓ reduce euthanasia rates
- ✓ help address concerns about feral, stray and roaming cats
- ✓ help protect our wildlife

The Government has also made a one-off \$10 reduction to the lifetime cat registration fee to encourage higher registration rates and adoption of cats from pounds and shelters.



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What are the benefits of desexing?

Desexing your cat before four months of age:

- ✓ prevents unwanted litters
- ✓ prevents disease and illness including some forms of cancer
- ✓ prevents straying and spraying
- ✓ increases longevity

Are there exemptions for annual permits?

Cats that cannot be desexed, either temporarily or permanently, are exempt from paying an annual permit. A certificate from your vet is required to qualify for this exemption.

Exemptions are also in place for cat breeders who are members of a recognised cat breeding body.

How will cat owners pay for the annual permits?

From 1 July 2020, cat owners will be able to pay for annual permits using the NSW Pet Registry website, or through their local council.

Anyone registering a cat on the NSW Pet Registry will be informed that they must pay for an \$80 annual permit if their animal is not desexed by four months of age.

Where will the revenue raised from the annual permits go?

Pet registration fees and annual permit fees go directly back to the local community through local councils to fund:

- ✓ animal pounds/shelters
- ✓ ranger services
- ✓ dog recreation areas
- ✓ education and awareness programs

They also fund operation of the Government's NSW Pet Registry and the Responsible Pet Ownership Education Program in our pre-schools and primary schools.

What is the penalty if pet owners don't have an annual permit and get caught?

Cat owners risk an on-the-spot fine of \$400 if they require an annual permit and don't have one.

If taken to court, a maximum penalty of \$5,500 for non-desexed cats may apply.

Where can I get further information?

Visit the Office of Local Government website at olg.nsw.gov.au



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