



FACT SHEET 2 - RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERSHIP

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP IT'S UP TO YOU

Keeping a cat is a big responsibility. Western Downs Regional Council has prepared this information to help cat owners understand their responsibilities under State and Local Laws. The requirements are generally common sense, and relatively simple to comply with, and all the requirements are designed to keep the community and your pet safe.

Who is a responsible person for a cat?

- The person that has immediate control or custody of the cat;
- The parent or guardian of a minor; or
- A person who occupies a place where a cat is usually kept

Who is the owner of a cat?

- The person who owns it, i.e. a person's personal property;
- A person who usually keeps the cat; or
- A parent of guardian of a minor.

Registration & Micro-chipping

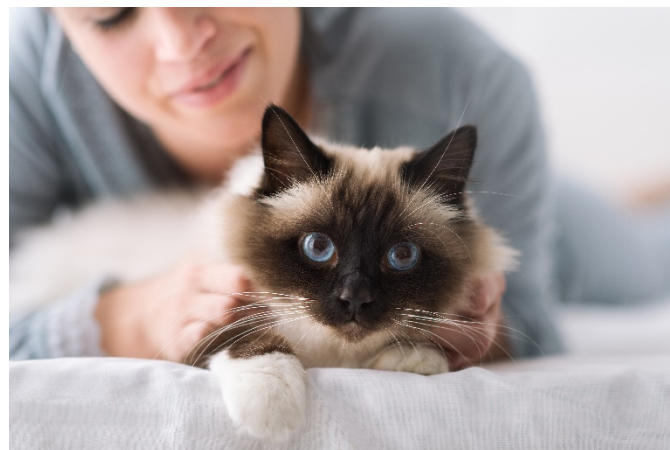
- Cats are not required to be registered with Council.
- Suppliers or owners of cats must ensure that cats are either micro-chipped before they are sold, or by 12 weeks of age.

Does my cat need to be de-sexed?

De-sexing of cats is not a mandatory requirement under the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008*, however it is recommended because of the benefits for your cat's temperament. De-sexing further prevents unwanted litters that could cause a nuisance, or even need to be destroyed.

How many cats can I keep without an approval?

Premise Type	Number of Cats
Multi-residential premises e.g. flat, unit	1
Land area <2000m ² in a designated town area	2
Land area ≥2000m ² in a designated town area	3
Not in a designated town area	4



Minimum standards

Persons keeping cats must:

- Ensure that waste waters from any enclosures drain in a manner that does not cause a nuisance, or enter adjoining properties;
- Dispose of excreta & food waste daily;
- Ensure that enclosures are clean, sanitary and in an aesthetically acceptable condition;
- Ensure that noise or other disturbances do not impact on adjoining premises;
- Areas where cats are kept must be appropriately sized, and be effectively and comfortably kept; and
- If animals are kept in an enclosure at a density greater than one animal per 100m², enclosures must be at least:
 - 15m from a residence on adjoining premises;
 - 6m from a road;
 - 1m from any boundary; or
 - 15m from a watercourse.

Animal waste

A person that has control of a cat in a public place must immediately remove or dispose of faeces in a sanitary way.

For further information,
contact Council:

Customer Service

1300 COUNCIL
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au





Duty to provide proper enclosure to prevent wandering

Persons keeping cats must ensure that:

- Areas where cats are kept must be suitably fenced, ensuring that at all times cats are kept on the land at all times
- Fencing must be:
 - Constructed of materials which are of sufficient strength to prevent cats escaping over, under or through the fence;
 - Designed and constructed to prevent cats jumping or climbing over the fence (usually a roof or caging);
 - Fitted with a barrier installed directly under the fence where cats have the ability to dig; and
 - Gates are kept closed and latched, except when in immediate use by persons entering or exiting the land.



REMEMBER - responsible pet ownership means keeping your cat properly contained in your yard.

If your cat cannot wander, it cannot cause a nuisance or act aggressively or attack.

When is a cat under effective control?

A cat is under effective control of someone only if a person is able to control the animal and is:

- Holding it by an appropriate leash or halter;
- Tethered to a fixed object that cannot be moved by the animal and is under continuous supervision;
- is corralled in a temporary enclosure that is adequate to contain the animal while still being under continuous supervision, e.g. a cat carrier.

Animals in public places

Cat owners or responsible persons must ensure that cats are **not** in a public place unless they are:

- Under effective control by someone; and
- Cats that are on heat are **not permitted** in a public place



For further information relating to your responsibilities as a cat owner, please call 1300 **COUNCIL** or visit your nearest Customer Service Centre.

Chinchilla:	80-86 Heeney Street
Dalby:	30 Marble Street
Jandowae:	22 George Street
Miles:	29 Dawson Street
Tara:	19 Fry Street
Wandoan:	6 Henderson Road

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