

# Fact Sheet

## You and your cat

Cats make great pets and companions for families, children and elderly people. However, owning a cat is a big responsibility.

As a cat owner it is your responsibility to microchip and desex your pet cat, provide appropriate care and veterinary treatment and importantly, ensure that your cat does not pose a nuisance to neighbours or a threat to wildlife and the environment.

### Do I need to register my cat?

Currently cats are not required to be registered in The Barossa Council. However, there are risks of losing your cat should it not be identified by a collar or microchip.

### Cat limits per household

Council has a by-law which limits the number of cats per premise to two. However, Council may give written permission to keep more than two cats in circumstances where the cats do not cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties, where the cats are kept in a manner that does not cause an insanitary condition on the premise and where all the cats are desexed.

### Identification of cats

All cats should be identified by either a collar which is marked with the current address or phone number of the owner; or implanted with a microchip which contains information that could be used to locate the owner. If your cat is identified and found roaming outside its property, it will be protected by the law.

### New legislation

New legislation introduced by the State Government requires all cats over six months of age to be implanted with a microchip by 1 July 2018. These laws were introduced to improve the likelihood of lost cats being reunited with their owners. These laws will also require all cats born after 1 July 2018 to be desexed by six months of age.

### Desexing your cat

Cats have the ability to reproduce from a young age. There are many advantages of having your cat desexed at an early age, including:

- reducing the likelihood of it roaming from your property
- reducing the unwanted spraying of urine to mark territories
- preventing unwanted pregnancies, which may add to the growing problem of homeless or unwanted cats



### **Curfews for cats**

Despite there being no legal curfew for cats, Council encourages owners to confine their cats to their property from sunset to sunrise. The benefits of keeping your cat confined from sunset to sunrise include:

- reducing the risk of your cat being involved in an accident
- reducing the likelihood of your cat being involved in a fight with another animal, which may result in expensive veterinary treatment.
- reducing injury to native wildlife
- reducing nuisance to neighbours

### **Problem cats**

If you encounter a problem cat in your neighbourhood, you should speak to the cat's owner about the impact their cat is having on your property and environment. Residents experiencing problems caused by straying unowned or feral cats, contact Council's Customer Service Officers on 8563 8444 to discuss Council's cat cage hire program.

### **Tips for responsible cat owners**

- identify your cat with a microchip before 1 July 2018
- have regular veterinary check ups
- confine your cat to your property and confine it indoors between sunset and sunrise
- desex your cat at an early age
- provide environmental enrichment. This may include scratching poles, toys, bedding and plenty of human interaction

For more information on the responsibilities of a cat owner or to report a stray or problem cat, contact The Barossa Council on 8563 8444 or visit [www.goodcatsa.com](http://www.goodcatsa.com)