

Responsible Cat Ownership

The Cat Act 2011



The *Cat Act 2011* took effect on 1 November 2013 and was introduced to reduce the large number of stray cats being euthanised each year, as well as to encourage responsible cat ownership and provide for better management of the unwanted impacts of cats on the community and environment.

The *Cat Act 2011* is administered and enforced by local governments within their respective districts and this brochure outlines the responsibilities you have as a cat owner within the Shire of Gingin.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

The *Cat Act 2011* requires all cats that have reached six months of age to be:

- Microchipped
- Sterilised, and
- Registered with the Shire of Gingin.

Your cat is also required to wear a collar and a registration tag to ensure they can be easily identified and returned to you if they become lost.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does my cat really have to be sterilised?

The legislation applies to all cats. However, a veterinarian can issue an exemption certificate if sterilisation is likely to adversely affect the health and welfare of the cat. This exemption certificate must be presented to the Shire when registering your cat.

A cat may also be exempt if the cat is owned by an approved breeder for the purpose of breeding or the cat belongs to a class of cats prescribed as exempt of sterilisation.

Do indoor cats need to be microchipped and sterilised?

Yes, the legislation requires all cats to be microchipped and sterilised regardless of whether it is an indoor or outdoor cat unless an exemption has been granted for health or breeding reasons.

I have sold or given away my cat so what do I need to do?

If you sell or give your cat away, it is your responsibility to ensure the cat is microchipped and sterilised prior to sale or handover. You also need to notify in writing both the Shire of Gingin where the cat is registered and the microchip database company of the new owner's details.

I've bought a new cat so what are my responsibilities?

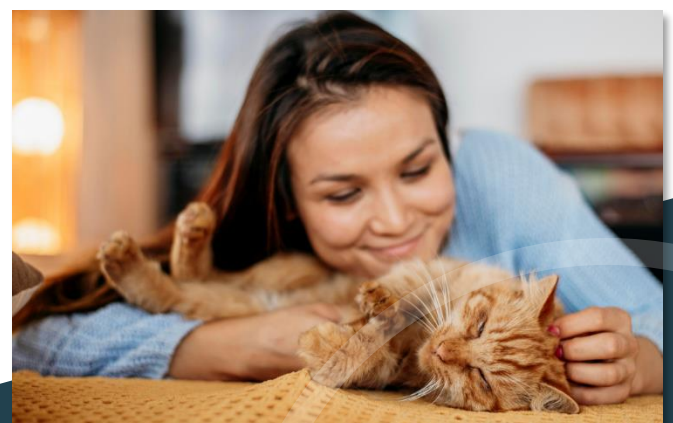
Microchipping and sterilisation of a new cat is the responsibility of the seller prior to sale.

If your new cat is too young to be sterilised then the seller must provide you with a sterilisation voucher. By the time your cat is six months old you will then need to provide evidence of microchipping and sterilisation to the Shire of Gingin to register it. The Shire will issue you a registration tag which your cat must wear whenever it is in a public place.

You will also need to check that the microchip details have been updated with the relevant microchip company and the Shire of Gingin if the cat was previously registered to another owner.

What are the consequences of failing to register and microchip my cat?

Unless you have an exemption provided by a veterinarian then failure to register and microchip your cat is an offence under the *Cat Act 2011* and may result in a fine of \$200 for each area of non-compliance.



Why do I have to register my Cat?

If your cat goes missing, having it registered drastically improves your chances of getting it back. A registration tag helps Shire Rangers and members of the community identify your cat so that they can return it to you as quickly as possible.

Additionally, it is worth noting that the cost of registration may be far less than the penalty for being caught without one. If a Shire Ranger finds your cat without a registration tag you could be fined \$200 on the spot.

How do I register my Cat?

To register your cat you will need to complete and sign an Application for Certificate of Registration form which is only available from the Shire.

For new registrations, we have made this process easy by providing the registration form at the back of this brochure and one can also be downloaded from our website www.gingin.wa.gov.au. Please note that microchipping your cat is required as part of its registration.

A person under the age of 18 years may not register a cat.

How much will it cost to register my Cat?

All registrations are due on 1 November each year and can be renewed for either one or three years. Lifetime registration is also available.

Does my cat have to wear a collar? What about the dangers?

Your cat must wear its registration tag whenever it is in a public place – this means it will need a collar. You can purchase a quick-release collar which will automatically release your cat if it gets caught on a branch or similar obstacle.

A breakdown of fees is provided below:

REGISTRATION FEE	1 YR	3 YRS	LIFETIME
Sterilised			
Standard	\$20	\$42.50	\$100
Pensioner Concession	\$10	\$21.25	\$50

Am I eligible for a Concession or Discount?

Concessions and discounts are available for the following:

- **Pensioners** who have approved concession cards are entitled to a reduction in fees (as shown in the table above).
- **Part-year registration** – a 50% discount is applicable to cats registered after 31 May in any given year. This covers up to six months to the end of the registration period, being 31 October of that year.

What happens if my cat passes away?

In the event that your cat sadly passes away, please let us know so that we can update our records.

What happens if I move home with my cat?

If you move home then as part of changing your address with us (or your new local government if you have moved out of the Shire of Gingin), you will need to update your details with us.

Head to the Shire's website to download a copy of our "Change of Name or Address" form to complete and return to us. Visit www.gingin.wa.gov.au/rates.

For further information on cat ownership and registration within the Shire of Gingin please contact the Community Rangers on (08) 9575 5140 or email mail@gingin.wa.gov.au.



APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Cat Act 2011

CEO	A. Cook	Due Date		Current Year	20	Assessment No.	
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Applicant's Details

Owner's Name	Owner's Postal Address
Residential Address (where the cat is ordinarily kept)	
Contact No.	Email

Details of the Cat(s)

1	Reg No.	Sterilised	Age	Sex	Microchip No
			Y/N		M/F
Cat's Name		Breed	Colour		Microchip Company

2	Reg No.	Sterilised	Age	Sex	Microchip No
			Y/N		M/F
Cat's Name		Breed	Colour		Microchip Company

Tick if applicable for sterilisation/microchip exemption (proof required): Health Registered Breeder Exempt Breed

Fees Payable

	1 Year	3 Years	Lifetime
Sterilised	\$20	\$42.50	\$100

CONCESSION

You can claim a Concession (proof req).

Pensioner (50% of full registration fee)

Have you been convicted of any offence against the *Cat Act 2011* or *Animal Welfare Act 2002* in the past 3 years? Y / N

If yes provide details: _____

Declaration

I (the above name) of (the above address) being the owner (or authorised agent of the owner) of the cat(s) whose details appear above **DECLARE THAT:**

- (a) I am/the owner is not under the age of 18 years of age and the details provided in this application are true;
- (b) The cat(s) described in this application is/are ordinarily kept at the above address; and
- (d) I have read and understand the conditions on the reverse side of this application form.

Signature (Owner/Authorised Agent)	Date

Office Use Only

Date of Issue		Registration Officer	
Documents Sighted	<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner Card <input type="checkbox"/> Sterilisation Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Microchip Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Breeder's/Vet Certificate		

A: PO Box 510, Gingin WA 6503

T: (08) 9575 5100

E: mail@gingin.wa.gov.au

ABN: 85 679 704 946

W: www.gingin.wa.gov.au

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CAT OWNERS

What is the purpose of the Cat Act 2011?

The Cat Act 2011 is about encouraging responsible pet ownership as well as reducing the number of unwanted cats in the community and the number that are euthanised each year.

The Cat Act 2011 requires all cats that have reached six months of age to be:

- Microchipped
- Sterilised; and
- Registered with the relevant local government.

Who is responsible for administering and enforcing the Cat Act 2011?

The local government (i.e. the Shire of Gingin) responsible for administering and enforcing the legislation.

What does administering the Act entail?

- Registration of cats at six months of age within the district upon proof of sterilisation and microchipping or production of an exemption certificate from a veterinarian.
- Approval and registration of cat breeders.
- Management of unowned/unregistered cats through impounding.

What can local governments do to enforce and administer the Cat Act 2011?

A local government can enforce the legislation by:

- Issuing a Cat Control Notice requesting a cat owner to comply with certain elements of the legislation such as microchipping and registration.
- Issuing fines of \$200 for failure to comply.

Who is an authorised person?

Authorised persons are appointed by the Shire of Gingin but do not have to be a Shire of Gingin employee. For example, the Shire of Gingin may appoint rangers from external organisations such as the Cat Haven, as well as persons doing feral cat control trapping in public areas. Whilst these groups can assist with the implementation of legislation, only Shire of Gingin employees (who are authorised persons) can issue infringement notices and fines.

Please tick the amount you are paying.

✓	Registration	Cost	✓
	Sterilised 1 year	\$20	
	Sterilised 3 Years	\$42.50	
	Lifetime	\$100	

Tick if applicable: Pensioner Concession being 50% of fee

Who can seize a cat from a private property?

Only an authorised person can seize cats on private premises. They must have the consent of the property owner/occupier or have a warrant.

What happens to cats that are impounded?

Cats impounded must be kept for seven working days if the owner can be identified and three working days if the owner cannot be identified before being re-homed or euthanised.

There is an obligation on the cat management facility to make efforts to identify and contact the owner which would include the use of alternative contact details supplied by the owner.

Failure to register your cat/s may result in a penalty under the Cat Act 2011.

Submitting this Form

- Please make sure you are returning the entire form (not just the top or bottom section).
- Please make sure that the cat's owner or authorised agent has completed and signed the declaration on the first page of this form.

Payments by Mail

Please return entire form (with copy of your Pensioner Concession Card and Sterilisation Certificate if applicable) with your cheque or money order made payable to the Shire of Gingin and post to PO Box 510, Gingin WA 6503.

Credit Card Payments

Please return the entire form (with copy of your Pensioner Concession Card and Sterilisation Certificate if applicable) via mail@gingin.wa.gov.au to the Shire of Gingin.



Failure to register a cat may result in a penalty under the Cat Act 2011.

Complete this section ONLY IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD.

The Shire of Gingin will not retain your details once your payment has been processed and this section of the form will be detached and shredded.

Card Owner Name		Contact No.	
Signature		Date	
		Amount	



Card No.		Expiry Date		CCV	
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