

Responsible Cat Ownership in the Shire of Gingin

- *The Cat Act 2011 s.8*



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.

What does this mean for you and your feline friend?

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 registration tag to ensure they can be easily identified and returned to you if they become lost.

Your cat is very old – does it still need 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.

Your cat is an indoor cat – does it 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.

Will your 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.

You have sold or given away your cat – what do you 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.

You have bought a new cat – what are your 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, 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 your cat?

Unless you have an exemption provided by a veterinarian, 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.



Shire of Gingin community rangers will be conducting spot checks on properties to assist owners with the registration to assist owners with the registration and microchipping of their cats.

For further information on cat ownership and registration within the Shire of Gingin please contact the community rangers on 08 9575 5140 or mail@gingin.wa.gov.au.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Local Government and Communities**



ABN 85 679 704 946
7 Brockman Street, Gingin WA 6503
T: 9575 2211 F: 9575 2121
E: mail@gingin.wa.gov.au
W: www.gingin.wa.gov.au

Application for Certificate of Registration
Western Australian Cat Act 2011 s.8

CEO: A.Cook
Due Date:
Current Year:
Assessment No:

Owner's Name and Address

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.....

Contact Phone No:

Email:

Address where cat/s are kept:

Table with 8 columns: Reg No, Cat's Name, Age, Sex, Breed, Microchip No, Colour / Markings, Sterilised

Pensioner's Concession (Proof Req): []
Sterilisation/Microchip Exemption (Proof Req): [] Health [] Registered Breeder []

Table with 4 columns: FEES PAYABLE, Sterilised, Pensioners, 1 Year, 3 Year, Lifetime

Have you been convicted of any offence against the Cat Act, Dog Act or Animal Welfare Act in the past 3 years? Y / N
If yes provide details:.....

I of being the owner (or authorised agent of the owner) of the cat whose details appear above DECLARE THAT:-

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

.....
Owner (or authorised agent of owner) Date

OFFICE USE ONLY: Date of Issue _____ Registration Officer _____

Documents Sighted: [] Pensioner Card [] Sterilisation Certificate
[] Microchip Certificate [] Breeder's/Vet Certificate

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CAT OWNERS

What is the purpose of the *Cat Act 2011*?

The new cat laws are about encouraging responsible pet ownership as well as reducing the number of unwanted cats in the community and the number that are euthanized each year.

The *Cat Act 2011* took effect from 1 November 2013 and 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 - which is, in this instance, the Shire of Gingin - is responsible for administering and enforcing the legislation.

What does administering 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 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.

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.

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*.

Registration Form

- Please ensure you are returning the entire form (not just the top or bottom section).
- Please ensure 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 the entire form (with copy of Pensioner Concession Card and/or sterilisation certificate if applicable) with your cheque or money order made payable to: Shire of Gingin, PO Box 510, Gingin WA 6503.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Please return the entire form (with copy of Pensioner Concession Card and/or sterilisation certificate if applicable) by email to: mail@gingin.wa.gov.au or fax 9575 2121.



(Please tick the amount you are paying)

P	Registration	Cost		Registration	Cost
	Sterilised 1 Year	\$20.00		Unsterilised 1 Year	\$50.00
	Sterilised 3 Year	\$42.50		Unsterilised 3 Year	\$120.00
	Sterilised Lifetime	\$100.00		Unsterilised Lifetime	\$250.00
Pensioner Concession 50% of fee					

Card Owner Name			
Amount		Phone Number	
Signature		Date	

----- OFFICE USE ONLY: (Detach and shred all details below) -----

Card Number			
Expiry Date		CCV	