

Desexing



The importance and benefits of desexing companion animals. In Australia tens of thousands of healthy, friendly dogs and cats die every year because there are not enough homes for them.

The tragic loss of life that results from over breeding could be avoided by desexing your cats and dogs.

The Importance and Benefits of Desexing Companion Animals

In Australia tens of thousands of healthy, friendly dogs and cats are put to sleep every year because there are not enough homes for them. Many cats and dogs are born "by mistake" because owners don't get around to desexing their pets.

Cats can fall pregnant at four months of age and dogs at five months. Over seven years a female cat and her offspring can breed and produce 420,000 new cats! The tragic results from over-breeding could be easily avoided by desexing your dogs and cats.

Benefits of Desexing

Desexing your dog and cat can also reduce behavioural problems and can improve the long term health of pets. Desexed pets are:

- Less likely to develop aggressive tendencies toward people and other animals;
- Less likely to mark their territory;
- Less prone to wander;
- Less prone to develop certain types of cancers; and
- Desexed animals cost less to register.

Contrary to some opinion, desexed pets will not:

- **Become fat or lazy** – this happens from lack of exercise and too much food.
- **Lose their personality** – your pet is likely to be a little calmer.
- **Feel less male or female** – Pets won't even be aware the operation has happened. However, pets that do not go on heat or produce a litter are less stressed. Tell your children that desexing your pet will save the lives of many others who are already unwanted and waiting for homes in shelters.

You must also consider what you would actually do with a litter of puppies or kittens when they are old enough to need new homes. **It will be up to you to care for all of them and mum until that time.** An average litter number for cats is four to six kittens.

Dogs can have up to ten puppies in one litter depending on their breed. There will be significant costs involved in caring for them. You will need to feed, worm and flea treat the whole litter and mum until they're fully weaned (at about eight weeks of age). You will also need to cover the cost of microchipping and first vaccinations (about \$100 each) for all of them before you can legally sell them.

Caring for a litter is a huge responsibility and one that you will be obligated to follow through until each kitten or puppy finds a new home. It is not acceptable to dump any animal and especially cruel to leave vulnerable puppies and kittens to fend for themselves.

Dumping animals is illegal and carries heavy penalties under NSW legislation. Desexing is a better option financially, emotionally and importantly, for the welfare of the animals.

How to Arrange for your Pet to be Desexed.

Most vets will desex puppies and kittens at five to six months age, but it is perfectly safe to desex them as early as 10 weeks. This is called "early age desexing" and is practised by most welfare organisations. Contact your local vet to book the surgery:

- Sydney Animal Hospital Erskineville – 9519 4111
- Sydney University Veterinary Clinic – 9351 3437
- Glebe Veterinary Clinic – 9660 1771
- Surry Hills Veterinary Clinic – 9699 3951

If you have difficulty meeting the financial commitment of desexing please contact the RSPCA on 9770 7555 or The Cat Protection Society of NSW on 9519 7201. Both these charities offer desexing, microchipping and first vaccinations at a discounted fee for people with a genuine need.

Arranging desexing at the time you adopt or purchase your pet is a great idea, that way you won't forget later. Better still, save a life and adopt your new pet from a welfare organisation like the Sydney Dogs and Cats Home, the RSPCA or The Cat Protection Society. That way your new puppy or kitten will already be desexed with the cost of the operation included in the adoption fee.

Contact the City of Sydney

For further information about microchipping and lifetime registration fees (including discounts for desexed animals and reduced fees for pensioners) call the City of Sydney on 9265 9333 or send a fax to 9265 9222. Information is also available on the City of Sydney website at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Animals/Default.asp

Pets in the City

City of Sydney understands the importance of the human/companion animal bond and is committed to supporting responsible pet ownership to benefit the entire community. Enjoy being a considerate and responsible companion animal owner.

