

# Pet identification



**Identification, microchipping and registration of dogs and cats in urban areas is important for the well-being of animals, the owner's peace of mind and will help the City of Sydney to plan for future community needs.**

# Microchip identification and registration are two separate steps. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure their contact details are always current.

**Microchip identification and lifetime registration of cats and dogs became a mandatory legal requirement on 1 July 1999. Dogs and cats must be microchipped from 12 weeks old or upon purchase or receipt as a gift. It is important to note that microchip identification and registration are two separate steps.**

**This two-step process greatly assists local councils in reuniting owners with their pets in the event that they are lost, hurt or stolen. It also provides the City of Sydney with an effective means of keeping track of cats and dogs for the benefit of the whole community.**

## Microchipping

Microchipping is a relatively painless low-cost procedure that involves the permanent placement of a unique 15 digit identification chip beneath the pet's skin between their shoulders. Microchipping can be carried out by a vet or an authorised implanter.

Once your pet is microchipped the contact details you provide will be sent to the City of Sydney and added onto the Companion Animals Register. The City will then contact you to request registration.

## Lifetime registration

Registration of your dog and cat is a formal commitment by you to take responsibility for your pets. Registration helps the City identify who owns which dogs/cats, how many dogs/cats live in the city and the areas in which they live.

## Rescue and impoundment

One of the most important benefits of pet registration and identification is that it allows an effective rescue and impoundment service.

Dogs and cats roaming our streets can often be afraid and disoriented with the potential to be hurt or involved in neighbourhood disturbances.

The City is committed to reuniting owners with their lost pets.

Contact details can be updated by contacting the City of Sydney. If your dog or cat strays away from home, identification, microchipping and registration offer the best chance of ensuring you get your pet back quickly and safely.

## Registration process

Registration for your cat or dog can be completed in person at your nearest One Stop Shop, Neighbourhood Service Centre or by post. To register a companion animal, owners must supply the following information to the City.

- Certificate of Identification
- Evidence of desexing (if applicable)
- A copy of your pension card (if applicable)
- A copy of your breeder membership card (if applicable) plus documentation verifying that your dog/cat is a purebred and a statement to say that the animal is to be kept for breeding purposes.

Please check the City of Sydney website, [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) or phone 9265 9333 for registration costs.

Dog and cat owners must notify the City of any change in circumstances such as change of ownership, change of address or death of an animal.

## Assistance animals

Assistance animals are those trained by an accredited training organisation to assist a person with a disability. Assistance animals include guide dogs and dogs trained to assist persons in activities where hearing is required.

Assistance animals are required to be microchipped and lifetime registered. However, owners of these animals are not required to pay a registration fee.

Proof that the dog is an assistance animal is required from one of the following organisations

- Guide Dogs Association
- Assistance Dogs for Independence
- Assistance Dogs Australia
- Hearing Impaired association
- Lion Hearing Dogs Inc

## 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](http://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.

