

Fact Sheet | Microchip and Register your pet

Produced in conjunction with NSW Governments Responsible Pet Ownership Grants program (year 3)



Microchipping and Registration

The Companion Animals Act 1998 was introduced in NSW on 1 July 1999 to protect pets, people and the wider community.

Microchipping and Registration is a two part process that requires owners to:

1. Have their animals identified by microchip by the time they are 12 weeks of age, at the point of sale or change ownership (whichever occurs first)
2. Register their animals with their local council by 6 months of age

Dog Owners

Puppies, unregistered dogs or any dog sold or given away from 1 July 1999, must be microchipped and lifetime registered.

Your dog is required by law, when in a public place, to wear a collar and tag, that shows the dog's name, address or phone number of the dogs owner.

Cat Owners

Kittens, or any cat sold or given away from 1 July 1999, must be identified and lifetime registered.

Annual Permits

In addition to the one off registration fees, Section 11(B) (C) (D) of the Companion Animals Act 1998 requires annual permits for certain companion animals.

Updating your information

When you take ownership of a dog or a cat, either by purchasing the animal or being given the animal as a pet, ensure that the previous owner or breeder submits / completes online the completed and signed change of owner / details form.

If you sell or give away a dog or a cat, it is your responsibility as the 'old' owner to update the new owners details on the Companion Animals register at your local council or online.

It is always advisable that the new owner makes enquiries with the council to ensure the details are changed and as much information is provided in case you animal becomes lost or stolen. The more contact details that on the register, the more likely you are to have your pet reunited with you quickly. The information on the register can only be accessed by authorised persons for the purposes of reuniting lost pets with their owners, or for updating information.

If you ignore the rules

Dog and cat owners who ignore the rules under the Companion Animals Act face strong penalties, including on the spot fines and court action.

For further information and other offences, refer to the Companion Animals Act 1998 and Companion Animals Regulation 2018 or visit the website www.olg.nsw.gov.au.

For further information and advice on microchipping and registration of your pet, please contact:

Armidale Regional Council

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Email: council@armidale.nsw.gov.au
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