

Checklist for Responsible Cat Owners

- My cat is micro chipped.
- My cat is sterilised.
- My cat is registered with the Shire of Esperance and will wear the registration tag at all times (registration can only be completed by persons over the age of 18 years).
- My cat will wear a disc with name, address and contact details of owner and/or a microchip which will provide this information when scanned.
- My cat is fed daily, has appropriate shelter and fresh, clean water.
- My cat has regular flea and worm treatments, health checks and vaccinations.
- My cat is discouraged from hunting native fauna by attaching a small bell or mirror to its collar.
- My cat is kept inside at night time to discourage wandering and also to protect my cat (cats are most likely to be involved in fighting for territory or be injured as the result of a motor vehicle accident at night).
- As the owner of a cat I am prepared to learn how to care for their health and understand their behaviour.
- As a cat owner I understand that having a cat is for life and it is an ongoing responsibility.

Register your cat today

The Shire of Esperance Ranger Services will be responsible for the issue of infringements to cat owners who do not comply with the cat laws and will charge fees for poundage and sustenance (per day, every day the cat is kept at the pound) for impounded cats.

All infringements and fees are required to be paid in full at the Shire Office, Windich Street, Esperance, prior to attendance at the Shire depot to collect your cat.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the new Cat Legislation due to be implemented on 1 November 2013, please contact Ranger Services or visit the Ranger Services's section on the Shire's website www.esperance.wa.gov.au

Ranger Services

Ph 08 9083 1533
E rangers@esperance.wa.gov.au
W www.esperance.wa.gov.au

Shire Pound

Esperance Depot, Brazier Street

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 3pm - 4pm
Saturday, Sunday, Public Holidays by appointment



Cat Laws Ranger Services

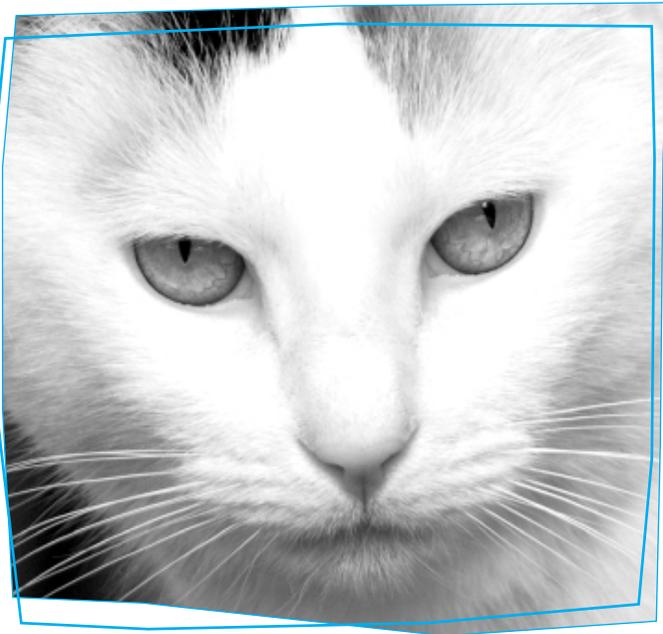


The Shire of Esperance
Ranger Services actively encourage
responsible pet ownership

The State Government has implemented legislation and legal requirements to ensure that cat owners take total responsibility for their pets.

A critical component of pet ownership is improving the manner in which our feline friends are cared for. Sadly our community creates a situation where many cats are destroyed because they are unwanted and are not being cared for responsibly.

This brochure is designed to provide the community and especially cat owners with the information they require to take steps to support and comply with the impending cat laws legislation which takes effect as of 1 November 2013.



The following are essential legal requirements of the legislation:

1. Every cat over 6 months of age must be micro chipped, unless exempt. An exemption will only be considered on receipt of a certificate from a veterinarian stating that micro chipping may adversely affect the health and welfare of the cat. Micro chipping will ensure the cat is identifiable if it loses its tag so that it can be safely returned to its owner.
2. Every cat of 6 months of age or more must be sterilised, unless exempt. An exemption will only be considered on receipt of a certificate from a veterinarian stating that sterilisation may adversely affect the health and welfare of the cat. Sterilisation ensures the health of your cat is maintained, prevents unwanted behaviours such as territory marking and wandering, and prevents unwanted kittens.
3. Every cat 6 months of age or over must be registered with the local Shire. Cats must be micro chipped and sterilised to enable registration. Similar to registering a dog, owners will need to complete an application form, pay the applicable fees and ensure that the cat wears a registration tag for identification purposes.

Wandering Cats

Cats permitted to roam can create a nuisance for residents and motorists. Unsterilised cats are often responsible for unwanted litters of kittens that are frequently destroyed or abandoned.

Abandoned cats frequently become feral. Feral cats can significantly impact on native fauna. Abandoning any animal is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act and there are significant penalties.

Wandering cats have a reduced life span because of threats from traffic and other animals. Cats are territorial so cats that wander may fight for territory leading to higher veterinary bills. Owners should take reasonable care to ensure their cat, or cats are confined to their own property. There are lots of products available which can assist.

The Shire of Esperance proposes to introduce Local Laws for the Keeping and Welfare of Cats. This will enable the Shire to bring the management of cats into line with current practices and management used with the existing laws in relation to dogs.

Local Laws will aim to:

- Promote responsible cat ownership;
- Reduce the nuisance to the community caused by cats;
- Limit the damage to and the loss of wildlife caused by cats;
- Restrict the number of cats owned per household to two from 1 November 2013.