



## DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LOXTON WAIKERIE

### Subsidised Cats and Dogs De-Sexing Scheme Policy

<b>Policy identification:</b>	
Policy type:	Council
Summary:	To provide a subsidy for low income earners to encourage de-sexing of dogs and cats
Record number:	19/13759
Date of adoption or approval:	16 April 2019
Last review date:	New policy
Next review date:	April 2022
Authorised by:	Council
Responsible department:	Environmental Services
Responsible officer:	Manager Environmental Services
Review officer:	Manager Environmental Services
Relevant references:	Animal Management Plan Dog and Cat Management Act
Delegations:	Local Government Act
Related policies:	Animal Management Plan

#### Policy statement

Under South Australian law, all dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 must be de-sexed by a registered veterinary surgeon:

- before it is 6 months of age, or
- within 28 days after the owner takes possession of the dog or cat, or
- if the owner of a dog or cat is granted an extension of time, before the day specified in the exemption.

However, dogs and cats born before the 1 July 2018 do not have to be de-sexed.

De-sexing a dog or cat is socially responsible. Principally, de-sexing prevents unwanted litters, reducing the problem and costs of unwanted pets in the community. However, de-sexing dogs has shown to reduce aggression, reduce the risk of certain cancers and even reduce the desire to roam.

There are also many benefits of having a cat de-sexed. De-sexing increases a cat's life expectancy and improves its temperament and health. De-sexing also reduces the risks of developing certain cancers. It reduces undesirable behaviours, such as spraying, marking, fighting and yowling, and reduces a cat's desire to roam.

Council encourages owners to de-sex their dog or cat. The aim of this policy is to provide a mechanism to assist residents with subsidised de-sexing of cats and dogs.

## Strategic reference

Our Community 1.2: Enhance the quality of life of our community by advocating, supporting and undertaking health and community safety initiatives.

## Policy

The subsidised de-sexing scheme provides pet owners who meet eligibility requirements with a reduction in the cost of de-sexing their cats and dogs.

Pet owners need to have their cat or dog de-sexed, and pay the full cost of the invoice to the veterinary clinic. The invoice, receipt and proof of eligibility for the program need to be submitted along with the completed application form for Council to assess. The subsidy will be deposited into the eligible applicant's bank account as soon as practicable by Council.

To be eligible for a de-sexing subsidy, a resident must hold one of the following concessions:

- a Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Department of Social Security or the Department of Veteran Affairs
- a Gold Card specifying War Widow issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs
- a Gold Card specifying TPI issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs
- a Health care card.

### Subsidised De-sexing Scheme conditions

- Dogs and cats must be registered in Loxton Waikerie Council area
- A maximum of two de-sexing subsidies will be allocated per household
- A reimbursement claim must be lodged within 6 months of the pet being de-sexed
- Pets must be vaccinated and have a current vaccination certificate
- The cost of vaccination is not covered by the de-sexing scheme
- The animal must be registered on the State wide Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) database.

## Roles and responsibilities

Delegation to consider applications for subsidised de-sexing in accordance with this policy is provided to the Chief Executive Officer, who may in turn sub-delegate to staff.

## Availability

This Policy will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at Loxton or Waikerie during ordinary business hours, or may be viewed at Council's website [www.loxtonwaikerie.sa.gov.au](http://www.loxtonwaikerie.sa.gov.au).

## Document history and version control

Date	Version	Authorisation - Council/ Committee/ Senior Management Team	Amendment Details
1/4/2019	1.0	MES	Original
3/4/2019	2.0	DCCS	Amended
16/4/2019		Council	Adopted