



Subsidised Dogs De-Sexing & Dogs and Cats Microchipping Scheme Policy

Responsible Officer/s	Manager Environmental Services
Relevant Legislation / Documents	Animal Management Plan Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
Adopted	16 April 2019
Reviewed	August 2026
Next Review	August 2030

A. Purpose

Under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, dogs and cats are required to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or at the point of sale, whichever occurs first, unless an exemption applies.

Dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 are also required to be desexed by a registered veterinary surgeon before six months of age, or within 28 days of a person taking possession of the animal, unless an exemption or extension applies.

Desexing and microchipping are important aspects of responsible pet ownership. Microchipping provides a permanent means of identification and assists with reuniting lost animals with their owners, while desexing can prevent unwanted litters and provide health and behavioural benefits.

Council provides subsidies to assist eligible residents with the cost of desexing dogs and microchipping dogs and cats. The Council desexing subsidy applies to dogs only, as a separate community cat desexing program is available through the Riverland Veterinary Clinic.

B. Policy

Council may provide subsidised dog desexing and dog and cat microchipping programs, subject to annual budget allocation and the conditions set out in this policy.

The schemes are delivered in partnership with the Riverland Veterinary Clinic. Applications must be submitted to and approved by Council before the procedure is undertaken. Following approval, the applicant may book the procedure directly with the Riverland Veterinary Clinic. The clinic will invoice the applicant directly, with the approved Council subsidy deducted from the final account.

1. Eligibility

To be eligible for either subsidy:

- the applicant and animal must reside within the District Council of Loxton Waikerie area, and the animal must be recorded on the Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) database;
- the applicant must hold a current eligible concession card;
- subsidies are limited to two animals per household;
- the animal must be vaccinated and have a current vaccination certificate; and

- vaccination costs and any additional veterinary services or costs are not covered by Council's subsidy.

Eligible concession cards are:

- a Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Department of Social Services or the Department of Veterans' Affairs;
- a Gold Card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs; or
- a Health Care Card.

2. Dog Desexing Subsidy

As the Riverland Veterinary Clinic provide a community cat desexing program, the desexing subsidy is available for eligible dogs only. The subsidy is \$100 for a male dog and \$150 for a female dog.

The following Riverland Veterinary Clinic's desexing criteria also apply:

- Male dogs must have both testicles descended
- female dogs must not be pregnant or on heat.

3. Dog and Cat Microchipping Subsidy

The microchipping subsidy is available for eligible dogs and cats. The approved subsidy reduces the cost of microchipping to \$10.00 per animal.

4. General Conditions

Council will only approve applications while funds remain available within the annual budget. Once the allocated funds are exhausted, no further subsidies will be approved for that financial year. Approval of a subsidy does not cover any additional services or costs incurred during the veterinary appointment.

C. Roles and Responsibilities

Delegation to consider applications for subsidised dog desexing and dog and cat microchipping in accordance with this policy is provided to the Chief Executive Officer, who may in turn sub-delegate to staff.

D. Availability

This Policy will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at Loxton or Waikerie during ordinary business hours at no charge.

Copies of this Policy will also be available from Councils website: www.loxtonwaikerie.sa.gov.au or postal copies may be obtained from the Council Office free of charge.

This policy will be available in Council's Electronic Document Management System (Content Manager).

E. Document history and version control

Date	Version	Authorisation	Amendment Details
1/4/2019	1	MES	Original
3/4/2019	2	DCCS	Amended
16/4/2019	2.1	Council	Adopted
19/4/2023	3	Council	Updated policy into new template.
19/08/2026	4	Council	Transferred to new template Updated policy name - previously called <i>Subsidised Cats and Dogs De-Sexing Scheme Policy</i> Removal of cats from desexing subsidy as Riverland Veterinary Clinic offer a separate subsidy and inclusion of dog and cat microchipping subsidy Re-worded purpose and policy sections