

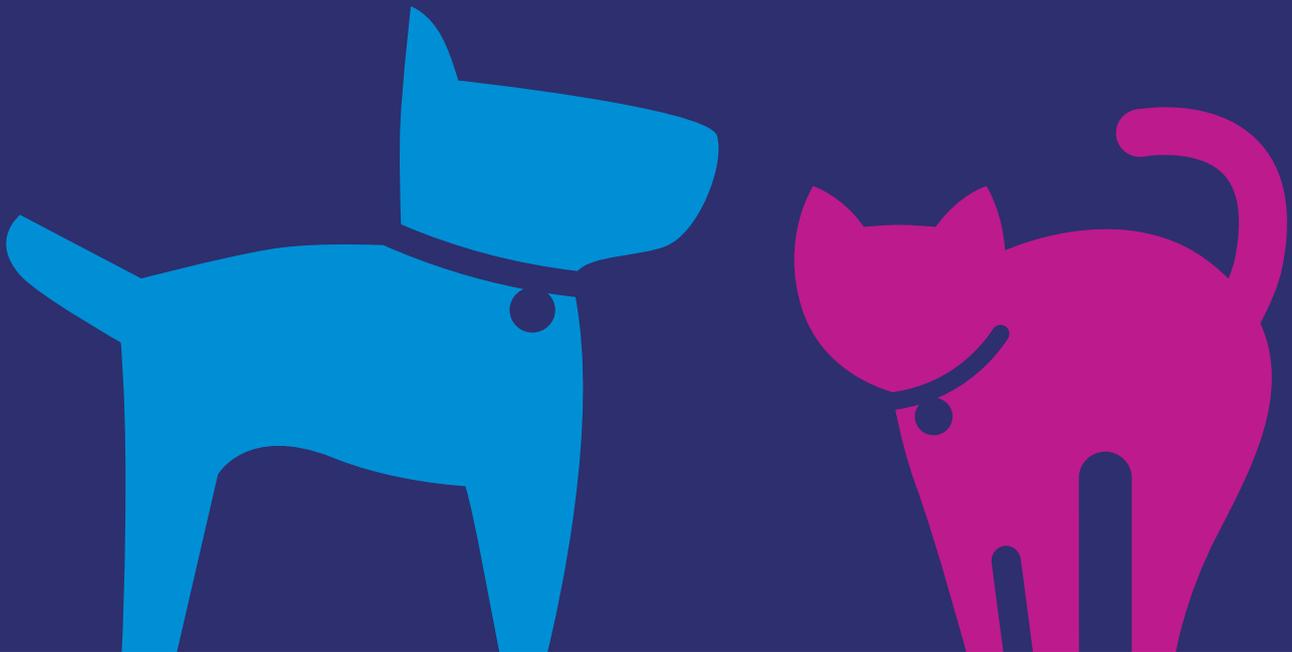
DOG AND CAT REFORMS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Government of South Australia

Dog and Cat Management Board



There are new laws for dog and cats in South Australia, including new microchipping and desexing requirements. These changes will improve the welfare and management of dogs and cats in the community.

The biggest changes:

From **1 July 2017:**

- Increased fines and expiations for breaking the law (dog attacks, etc).
- Increased council powers to investigate and prosecute breaches of the law.

From **1 July 2018:**

- All dogs and cats over 12 weeks of age to be microchipped.
- All **new generations** of dogs and cats (born after 1 July 2018) to be desexed. *Exemptions apply for working dogs, registered breeders etc.*

These changes will increase the likelihood of lost or impounded dogs and cats being reunited with their owners, and reduce the number of unwanted and abandoned litters euthanised in pounds and shelters.

Discount Microchipping

Microchipping is a safe and permanent way to identify your dog and cat. The procedure is quick, with no ongoing discomfort, and can only be carried out by a trained, authorised implanter.

Discount microchipping days are offered throughout the state at various times of the year. Visit chipblitz.com for more.

New rules for Breeders and Sellers

- From **1 August 2017**, all breeders and sellers must meet new industry standards and guidelines, to comply with the state's animal welfare laws.
- From **1 July 2018**, breeders must register with the Dog and Cat Management Board. In exchange, they will be issued with a registration number that must be provided, along with up-to-date contact details in all advertisements. This new accountability will help weed-out unscrupulous traders from the business.

These changes affect anyone who breeds dogs or cats for sale or trade, not just pedigree breeders.

Greater powers for councils

Councils play a vital role in dog and cat management in your community. They are responsible for registration, collection and return of stray dogs, and investigating complaints of barking or dog attacks.

For this reason, councils have new powers under the revised laws, including the ability to gather evidence, and compel dog or cat owners to give their name and address. This will help councils combat various problems, including dog attacks.

There are also increases in some expiations and penalties to encourage good dog and cat owner behaviour.

DACO – a new way to register your dog or cat

From 1 July 2018, dog and cat registration, along with the way you manage your pet dog or cat's microchip, desexing and breeder information, will be simplified with the introduction of a new website.

Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) will be the central point for all your dog and cat management payments and information, bringing together data currently held on 68 individual council systems and private microchip databases.

Not only will DACO simplify your dog or cat management needs, but it will streamline the process for councils, vets and animal welfare agencies too, giving these organisations instant access to information from around the state. This will help them reunite you and your lost dog or cat quicker.

Does microchipping replace council registration?

No. Microchipping is a great form of ID, but council registration funds all the important dog and cat management activities in your local area, including dog parks, poo bags, dog pounds, returning lost dogs, investigating dog attacks and other duties carried out by animal management officers.

Changes to dog registration categories

As of 2017, dog registration in South Australia has been simplified. Your dog now falls under one of these two simple categories.

Standard Dog: A dog that is both desexed and microchipped

Non-standard Dog: all other dogs, even if they are exempt from rules around desexing or microchipping, such as dogs belonging to registered breeders, working livestock dogs etc.

These changes have been made so registration categories throughout the state can be streamlined. Your council may still offer additional rebates. Speak to them to see what rebates might apply to you.

About the Dog and Cat Management Board

Established in 1995 under *The Dog and Cat Management Act*, the Dog and Cat Management Board is the only statutory board of its kind in Australia and works closely with key partner organisations and the State Government to improve dog and cat management in South Australia.

Using its research and expertise the Board has ensured that South Australia's regulatory and legislative framework has been reviewed and amended to improve the management of dogs and cats in South Australia.

The Board was a key driver of the reforms now being introduced and will take a proactive role in their application, including the new requirement for breeders to be registered, and in the roll-out of DACO.

Learn more at
dogandcatboard.com.au