

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT – DESEXING VOUCHER POLICY

COMMUNITY POLICY



1 Scope

This policy applies to eligible persons within the Rockhampton Region who are seeking a voucher for desexing a cat or dog.

2 Purpose

To identify eligible persons and establish guidelines to assess requests for de-sexing vouchers to alleviate the impact of desexing costs on Rockhampton Regional Council residents who are in receipt of an approved government pension.

3 Related Documents

3.1 Primary

Nil

3.2 Secondary

Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008

Animal Desexing Voucher Application Form

Animal Management – Desexing Voucher Work Instruction

4 Definitions

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions apply:

Council	Rockhampton Regional Council
Desexing Voucher	A voucher to the amount of \$50.00 awarded by Council to eligible persons to assist in reducing the overall cost of de-sexing a dog or cat.
Participating Veterinary Surgery	A veterinary surgery who accepts Council's de-sexing vouchers.
Region	Area defined by the electoral boundaries of Rockhampton Regional Council.

5 Policy Statement

Council is committed to reducing the number of unwanted cats and dogs within the Region by providing eligible persons access to desexing services through the distribution of desexing vouchers.

5.1 Eligibility

Desexing vouchers are available to approved pensioners and widow/ers who are in receipt of a pension for entitlements from Centrelink, the Department of Veterans' Affairs or Widow's Allowance. An Animal Desexing Voucher Application Form must be accompanied by evidence of current pensioner status.

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Adopted/Approved:	Adopted, 8 December 2015	Department:	Community Services
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5.1.1 Approved Pensioner

An approved pensioner is a person who is:

- (a) A resident of the Region;
- (b) Remains an eligible holder of a Queensland Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, or a Queensland Repatriation Health Card – For All Conditions issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs; and
- (c) The owner of a non-desexed cat or dog (must be registered if dog is over 12 weeks of age).

5.1.2 Approved Widow/er

An approved widow/er is a person who is:

- (a) A resident of the Region;
- (b) Remains in receipt of a Widow's Allowance; and
- (c) The owner of a non-de-sexed cat or dog (must be registered if dog is over 12 weeks of age).

5.2 Value of Voucher

The value of the desexing voucher is to the amount of \$50.00.

5.3 Application for a Desexing Voucher

Applications for desexing vouchers must be submitted to Council by the eligible person on the Animal Desexing Voucher Application Form and accompanied by the mandatory supporting documentation. Supporting documentation includes proof of current pensioner or widow/er status.

If an application is approved a desexing voucher is sent to the applicant.

If the application is refused, a letter is sent to the applicant within five business days of the decision being made.

5.4 Presentation of De-sexing Voucher to Participating Veterinary Surgeon

At the time the animal is admitted for desexing, the owner must present the desexing voucher to the veterinary surgery. The owner must pay the required fee directly to the veterinary surgeon.

5.5 Participating Veterinary Surgeon Invoice

The participating veterinary surgery accepts the desexing voucher from the owner at the time of admission, signs the desexing voucher based on acceptance of it and forwards an invoice to Council for the desexing voucher amount once the desexing has been undertaken.

5.6 Conditions

The following conditions apply to the distribution and usage of a de-sexing voucher:

- (a) A maximum of two desexing vouchers in two years (for two dogs, two cats or one dog and one cat) are be issued per household;
- (b) De-sexing vouchers carry an expiry date of 30 days from the date of issue by Council; and
- (c) Only de-sexing vouchers issued by Council can be used.

6 Review Timelines

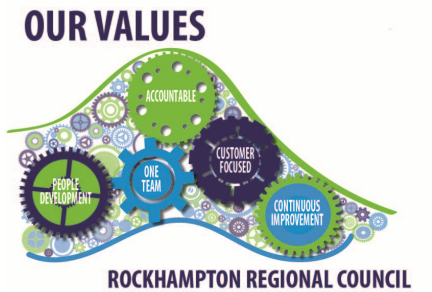
This policy is reviewed when any of the following occur:

- (a) The related information is amended or replaced; or
- (b) Other circumstances as determined from time to time by the Council.

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7 Document Management

Sponsor	Chief Executive Officer
Business Owner	General Manager Community Services
Policy Owner	Manager Planning and Regulatory Services
Policy Quality Control	Corporate Improvement and Strategy



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