

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT – SEIZED/IMPOUNDED CATS AND DOG REGISTRATION AND MICROCHIPPING POLICY

COMMUNITY POLICY



1 Scope

This policy applies to all cats and dogs seized and/or impounded by Rockhampton Regional Council and subsequently reclaimed by their owner/responsible person or rehomed by an animal welfare agency.

2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- (a) Ensure all impounded cats and dogs released from the Animal Management Centre comply with registration and microchipping requirements of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*; and
- (b) Provide guidance for the return of seized cats and dogs directly to owner/responsible person without impounding at the Animal Management Centre.

3 Related documents

3.1 Primary

Nil

3.2 Secondary

Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008

Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011

Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011

Animal Management - Surrendered and Unclaimed Animals Policy

Animal Release Form – Animal Welfare Agency

Council's Fees and Charges Schedule

Enforcement Policy

4 Definitions

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions apply:

Animal Welfare Agency	<p>As defined in <i>Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Queensland); (b) The Animal Welfare League of Queensland; and (c) Another incorporated association which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Has objects similar to the objects of the corporation referred to in paragraph (a) or the incorporated association referred to in paragraph (b); and (ii) Is recognised as an animal welfare agency by the local government.
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Authorised Implanter	As defined in the <i>Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008</i> : (a) A veterinary surgeon who: (i) Has completed a course, about implanting PPIDs, prescribed under a regulation or approved by the chief executive; and (ii) Is not a prohibited implanter; or (b) A person who: (i) Has a qualification relating to the implantation of PPIDs prescribed under a regulation or approved by the chief executive; and (ii) Has completed a course, about implanting PPIDs, prescribed under a regulation or approved by the chief executive; and (iii) Is not a prohibited implanter.
Council	Rockhampton Regional Council
Owner	As defined in <i>Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011</i> , owner, of an animal, means: (a) Its registered owner; (b) A person who owns the animal, in the sense of it being the person's personal property; (c) A person who usually keeps the animal; including through an agent, employee or anyone else; or (d) If a person mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) is a minor – a parent or guardian of the minor.
PPID	Prescribed permanent identification device as defined in the <i>Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008</i> , is a microchip or other electronic device that: (a) Is capable of being permanently implanted in a cat or dog; (b) Is designed to record information in a way that can be electronically retrieved; and (c) Complies with the requirements prescribed by regulation for the device.
Region	Rockhampton Regional Area defined by the Local Government Areas of Queensland.
Responsible Person	As defined in <i>Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011</i> , responsible person, for an animal, means: (a) The person, or the person's employee acting within the scope of the employment, who has immediate control or custody of the animal; (b) The parent or guardian of a minor who has immediate control or custody of the animal; or (c) The person who occupies the place at which the animal is usually kept, but does not include: (a) A person who occupies the place at which the animal is usually kept, if someone else who is an adult and lives at the place keeps the animal; or (b) A person who has the control or custody of or keeps the animal as an employee of someone else, if the person is acting within the scope of the employment.
The Act	<i>Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008</i>

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5 Policy statement

Council is committed to responsible pet ownership and ensuring cats and dogs within the Region comply with microchipping and registration requirements under the Act. Council supports these requirements to promote animal safety, reduce unnecessary impounding of cats and dogs and improve reunification outcomes.

Where possible Council takes all reasonable steps to return cats and dogs to their owner or responsible person prior to impounding.

Council takes actions to microchip and register, where possible, every cat and dog released from the Animal Management Centre.

5.1 Implantation of a PPID

The Act requires all cats and dogs to be implanted with a PPID.

Impounded cats and dogs must be scanned upon collection in the field and/or on arrival at the Animal Management Centre.

If no PPID is detected and the cat or dog is:

- (a) 8 weeks or older of age, and
- (b) Expected to be reclaimed by an owner/responsible person, or
- (c) The cat or dog is suitable for rehoming,

the cat or dog must be implanted with a PPID prior to release.

The PPID must be implanted by an authorised implanter which may include a Council officer or a veterinarian surgeon.

Council updates the PPID registry with the cat or dog's ownership details as soon as practicable after the animal has been reclaimed or rehomed.

After a cat or dog is reclaimed or rehomed, the owner is responsible for updating the PPID registry with any changed details of the cat or dog owner as they occur.

Council's Fees and Charges Schedule outlines the cost of the microchipping fee. The fee, together with any other relevant cost-recovery fees must be paid prior to the animal being reclaimed.

Where a cat or dog is rehomed through an animal welfare agency, Council waives the microchipping fee.

5.2 Dog registration

The Act requires dogs 12 weeks and over of age be registered.

If an impounded dog is unregistered and the dog is:

- (a) 12 weeks and over of age; and
- (b) Is being reclaimed by an owner/responsible person; or
- (c) Rehomed through an animal welfare agency,

the owner/responsible person must register the dog prior to release of the dog.

Council's Fees and Charges Schedule outlines the cost of registration.

Where a dog is rehomed through an animal welfare agency, Council waives the fee for the current registration period.

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5.3 Returning of cats and dogs without impounding at the Animal Management Centre

Where possible, Council returns a cat or dog directly to an owner/responsible person where:

- (a) For a dog, the dog has a current registration;
- (b) For a cat or dog a PPID can be detected;
- (c) An owner/responsible person can be contacted;
- (d) The cat or dog can be safely secured at the property for which it resides; and
- (e) The cat or dog has not previously been impounded or under investigation for any other matter.

In emergent circumstances, cats or dogs not registered and/or implanted with a PPID may be returned to the owner/responsible person in the field. In these cases, the owner of the cat or dog may be given a compliance notice giving 14 days to have the cat or dog implanted with a PPID and/or for a dog, to be registered.

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.

7 Document management

Sponsor	Chief Executive Officer
Business Owner	General Manager Communities and Lifestyle
Policy Owner	Manager Planning and Regulatory Services
Policy Quality Control	Legal and Governance

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