



Are you a pet shop owner?

As from 1 November 2013, all domestic cats in Western Australia, over six months of age, will need to be sterilised, microchipped and registered with their local government as the full *Cat Act 2011* comes into effect.

How will the *Cat Act 2011* affect pet shop owners?

When a cat is sold or given away, the Pet Shop owner must ensure the cat is microchipped and sterilised prior to the transfer. Where a cat cannot be sterilised due to its health or age, the pet shop must issue a prepaid sterilisation voucher to the new owner to have the cat sterilised at a later date.

Do all cats have to be microchipped prior to sale?

If microchipping a cat will negatively impact its health or welfare, a veterinarian can issue a certificate to exempt the cat from being microchipped.

Do all cats have to be sterilised prior to sale?

No, if:

- A veterinarian issues an exemption certificate where sterilisation will negatively impact the cat's health or welfare; or
- The purchaser is an approved cat breeder and is purchasing the cat for breeding.

Who is an approved cat breeder?

An approved cat breeder will have a certificate issued from their relevant local government.

Pet Shops should sight and keep a copy of an approved cat breeder's certificate prior to the sale of an unsterilised cat.

Will pet shops have to register all cats prior to sale?

No, only cats that have reached six months of age must be registered with the relevant local government.

Do pet shops have any other obligations when a cat is sold?

Where a microchipped cat is sold, the Pet Shop must notify that cat's microchip database company of the new owner's name, address and any relevant details as required, within seven days of the sale.

What if the pet shop donates or gives a cat away?

The above provisions apply to all transfers of cat ownership whether or not money changes hands.

Are there any penalties for pet shop owners?

Yes, a maximum fine of \$5,000 may be imposed for failure to meet any of the above obligations, or a \$200 infringement notice may be issued.



Where can I get more information?

For more information, refer to the Department of Local Government and Communities' Responsible Cat Ownership web page at:

<http://dlg.wa.gov.au/Content/Legislation/ResponsibleCatOwnership.aspx>

What is the purpose of the *Cat Act 2011*?

Our new cat laws are about encouraging responsible pet ownership and reducing the number of unwanted cats in the community and the number that are euthanised each year.

The full *Cat Act 2011* will take effect from **1 November 2013** and will require all cats that have reached six months of age to be:

- Microchipped;
- Sterilised; and
- Registered with the relevant local government.