

## New rules apply from 1 July 2018

### Permanent, unique identification

The most effective form of permanent identification is to microchip your cat. A bit like product barcodes, the microchip carries a code unique to each cat. This code is recorded on a national database and appears on the certificate of identification given to the owner.

Sometimes, a microchip symbol is tattooed in your cat's ear to tell others it carries this identification.

Your cat should also wear a collar and a nametag with your contact details to increase the likelihood of your cat being returned to you if lost or missing. However, since collars can easily be removed or fall off, the most permanent and reliable identification is a microchip.

### New laws soon...

...from 1 July 2018, it will be compulsory for your cat to be microchipped.

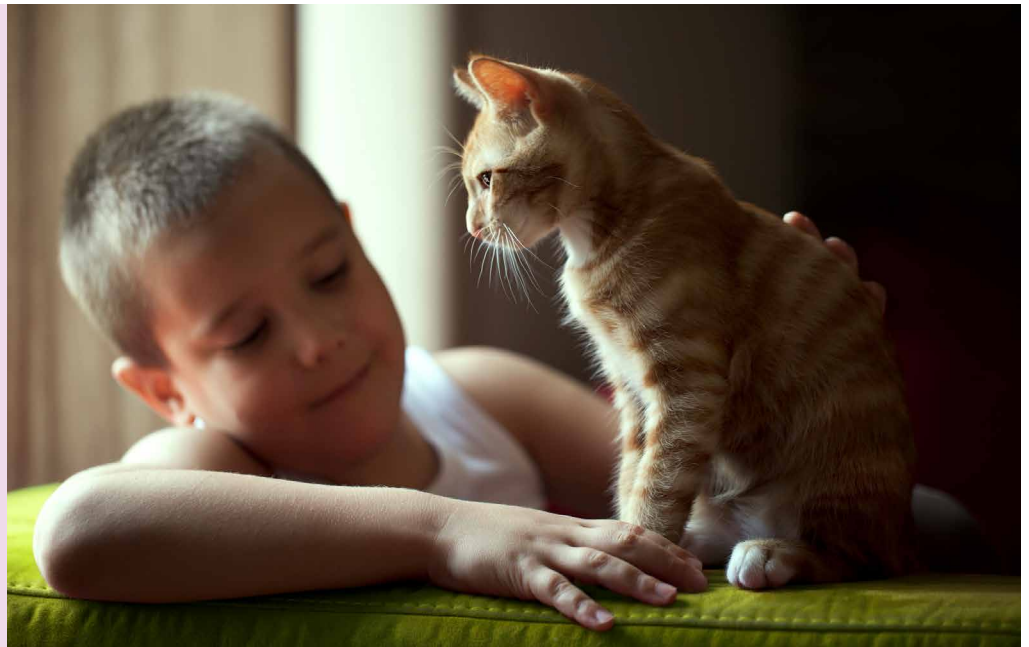
### Microchipping: the facts

- The Great Australian Chip Blitz offers microchipping for just \$10. Visit [chipblitz.com](http://chipblitz.com) for more.
- Microchipping is a safe and permanent identification system enabling you and your cat to be re-united if it becomes lost.
- Microchips are tiny, the size of a rice grain.
- They are inserted with a needle under the skin between the shoulder blades.
- The procedure is similar to a vaccination although the needle is slightly larger.
- It is not painful, but some cats may react slightly when the needle is inserted.
- There's no ongoing discomfort once in place.
- The microchip scanners are harmless to your cat and are routinely used by councils, veterinarians and animal welfare organisations such as the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League Australia.

## We understand...

... occasionally, even loved and valued cats become lost.

Microchipping makes it easier for your local council or animal shelter to contact the owner of a stray cat so it may be quickly reunited with its family.



## New rules and online register

From 1 July 2018, your cat must be microchipped. Kittens must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age, and if you acquire a new cat that isn't microchipped, it must have one implanted within 28 days. This new law is designed to reunite you with your cat if it becomes lost, and cut down on the number of cats that are euthanised in shelters when their owners can't be found.

It is vital that you keep the details linked to your cat's microchip up-to-date. In the past, this has been done through private registers, but as of 1 July 2018, you can manage all your cat information via the new Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) database. DACO will be the new, central point for all dog and cat related information in South Australia, including breeder information, microchip and registration details (in councils that require you cat to be registered). For more information, visit [dogandcatboard.com.au](http://dogandcatboard.com.au)

## The need for identification

If your cat is found wandering from your premises, and doesn't have a collar and tag, it can legally be trapped and handed into a shelter, vet or council.

If your cat ever goes missing, you'll want to know you've done as much as possible to ensure your cat is returned home to you as soon as possible.

That's why a microchip is vital, given collars and tags can snag and fall off, or be removed. It's cheap insurance for such sound peace of mind.

## New rules for desexing

From 1 July 2018, new desexing rules come into force. In addition to being microchipped, all cats born after this date must be desexed. Mandatory desexing is the only practical way to reduce the number of unwanted litters born each year, many of which end up abandoned in pounds and shelters. Sadly, many of these cats will be euthanised.

While it's not compulsory to desex cats born before 1 July 2018, you should consider having your cat desexed as part of being a good cat owner.

Benefits of desexing include:

- Stopping unwanted litters, reducing the problem and costs of unwanted pets in the community
- Increases your cat's life expectancy
- Improves your cat's temperament and health
- Reduces the risks of developing certain cancers
- Reduces undesirable behaviours, such as spraying, marking, fighting and yowling
- Reduces your cat's desire to roam

This, coupled with a microchip, helps ensure you and your cat can enjoy a long, rewarding life together.

**To find the facts and other tips on how to be a good cat owner, visit [dogandcatboard.com.au](http://dogandcatboard.com.au)**