Cats

Being a responsible cat owner

When adding a cat to your family it is important to remember **your pet is your responsibility**. Identification, such as a collar with tags, will ensure your cat is not mistaken as a stray and you are reunited with your cat should they become lost or injured.

For your cat's safety and to protect local wildlife, it is recommended that cats are kept inside, especially overnight. For assistance with wildlife that has been injured by a cat, contact WIRES Rescue on 1300 094 737.

Visit **centralcoast.nsw.gov.au** for more tips on responsible pet ownership.

Microchipping

In NSW, all cats must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age or before being sold or given away, whichever happens first.

Microchips are a small 2mm implant placed under the skin between the shoulder blades. The microchip contains a unique 15 digit number which is assigned to your pet.

Registration

All cats, other than exempt cats, must be registered by six months of age. The registration fee is a one-off payment, which covers the cat for its lifetime in NSW, regardless of any changes in ownership.

It is encouraged to have your cat desexed before registering it. Having your cat desexed prior to registration helps to reduce straying, fighting, aggression and antisocial behaviour such spraying to mark their territory. It also helps to reduce the number of unwanted pets born each year.

Annual permits are now required for owners of cats that are not desexed.

Lifetime registration is required to help protect pets, owners and the community and can be paid online at **petregistry.nsw.gov.au** or at any local council in NSW.

Keep your cat's details current

Now that your cat is microchipped and registered, you can keep their details up-to-date online with the NSW Pet Registry!

If you sell or give your cat away, it is your responsibility to notify a change of ownership, which you can do online.

Remember, fines may apply if your cat is not microchipped, or if details are not up to date.

Central Coast Council