

# Responsible pet ownership



Central  
Coast  
Council

## Remember a pet is for life!

If you are about to add a furry four-legged addition to your family, look no further than our **Animal Care Facilities**.

### Charmhaven

**Open** 10am - 4.30pm, Monday – Friday  
10am - 2pm, Saturday  
*Closed selected public holidays*

**Location:** Depot Road, Charmhaven

### Erina

**Open** 10am - 4.30pm, Monday – Friday  
10am - 2pm, Saturday  
*Closed selected public holidays*

**Location:** Pateman Road, Erina

**Phone:** 4350 3184

**Email:** socaresacf@gmail.com



## Microchipping

In NSW, all cats and dogs, unless exempt, 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 and dogs, unless exempt, must be registered by six months of age. The registration fee is a one off payment, which covers the cat or dog for its lifetime in NSW, regardless of any changes in ownership.

You are encouraged to have your cat or dog desexed before registering it. This will help to reduce straying, fighting, aggression and antisocial behaviour, such as spraying to mark territory. It also helps to reduce the number of unwanted pets born each year.

Discounted registration fees apply to desexed dogs.

Annual permits are now required for owners of non-desexed cats, restricted dog breeds, and dogs declared to be dangerous.

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

## Change of details

Keeping your address and contact information up to date is essential to ensure you are reunited with your pet should they become lost.

If you sell or give away your pet, it is your responsibility to notify a change of ownership

You can access and change your pet's details at **[petregistry.nsw.gov.au](https://petregistry.nsw.gov.au)** or at any local council in NSW.

Fines may apply if your animal is not microchipped, or if details are not up to date.



## Why desex your pet

Desexing your pet not only reduces your registration cost, but also limits the number of abandoned and unwanted litters of puppies and kittens. Desexing can improve behaviour making your pet less likely to develop aggressive tendencies toward people and other animals, mark their territory, stray and develop certain types of cancers.

## Training and socialisation

Puppies have a critical socialisation period from 3 to 17 weeks of age, which is why puppy training is highly recommended during this time.

As well as providing an opportunity for socialisation, training helps develop basic manners. It can also strengthen the bond between you and your puppy.

Training should always be based on positive reinforcement and kindness; reward good behaviour with a pat, a food treat or pleasant encouragement and ignore 'unwanted' behaviour.



## Pets at home

There are many things to consider before you bring a new pet home. To keep your dog safe and for the safety of others, dogs cannot roam freely in public places. Make sure your pet is safely contained in your yard. Your dog should not be able to go over, under or through your fence or gate.

Your dog may bark when you are away from home. When a dog's barking becomes excessive it can cause stress and frustration for those living close by. We strongly encourage good communication between you and your neighbours, which will help in resolving any issues. If a formal barking dog report is made, you will be notified in writing and provided with information to help.

For your cat's safety and to protect local wildlife, it is recommended that you keep your cat inside, especially overnight.





## Pets in public places

Dogs must be kept on a lead and under the control of a competent person when exercising in a public space. **Fines may apply** when you take your dog off-leash in a public place including outside your home and on the footpath. You are only permitted to take your dog off lead, when in a designated off-leash exercise area.

If you would like to give your dog some lead free time visit one of Council's allocated off-leash dog exercise areas. When within these areas it is important that your dog is still under your control and comes back to you when called.

Council provides a number of off-leash dog exercise areas across the Central Coast. For more information **visit [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/pets](https://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/pets)**

## Bag it and bin it!

Your dog's waste is your responsibility – remember to always take a bag and bin it!

If your dog poos in a public place or on someone else's property, you are responsible for picking it up and disposing of it thoughtfully. This will stop it from getting into our waterways or ending up on the bottom of other people's shoes. On the spot fines may apply for those who fail to pick up after their dog.

## Additional things to remember:

- **Fireworks and thunderstorms** – make sure your pet is secured to prevent them from running away when scared.
- **Going away** – ensure your pet is responsibly cared for by arranging friends or family to pet sit or by booking your pet into a boarding kennel.
- **Travelling** – pets must be secured properly and are not allowed to sit on laps or in the front seat when travelling in the car. It's also important to never leave a pet alone in a hot car.
- **Emergencies** - these can happen at any time, so ensure your bush fire and flood plans include the wellbeing of your pets. If your pet becomes lost during an emergency, they have a better chance of being reunited with you if they are microchipped and your details are up-to-date.
- **Identification** - In addition to microchipping and registration, ensuring your cat or dog has a collar with tags will help to quickly reunite you with your pet.

Every year in Australia hundreds of thousands of animals are abandoned. Before you adopt a pet, think about how suited your way of life is with owning a cat or dog. Once you decide to adopt, consider what type of pet and breed is compatible with your lifestyle.

Owning a pet is highly rewarding, but as a pet owner, you have the responsibility to look after your pet's basic welfare needs. Your pet will need an appropriate balanced diet and clean, cool water at all times, adequate shelter suitable for all weather conditions, socialisation, training and exercise.

Ensure your pets safety by microchipping and registering your cat or dog.

**Remember your pet is your responsibility!**

For more information

**visit [centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/pets](http://centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/pets)**

