

Responsible pet ownership

If you own a cat, you must:

- Register each cat you own. Under Council's Local Law you may keep a maximum of two cats in a residential area. You must apply for a permit to keep more than two.
- Ensure each cat you own is microchipped
- Make sure that each cat wears a valid Council registration tag
- Keep your cat confined to your property

Registered pets received a lifetime tag which is required to be on the pet when the animal is outside the owner's premises. If your pet loses its tag a new one can be purchased from Council.

Not only is it a legal requirement for your pet to have identification, but the tag will also assist the return of your pet in the event that it becomes lost. Council Officers can identify your pet by the registration number on the tag, and let you know your pet has been found.

Pets currently registered with Council receive a 'Free Ride Home' when they are collected by Rangers for the first time.

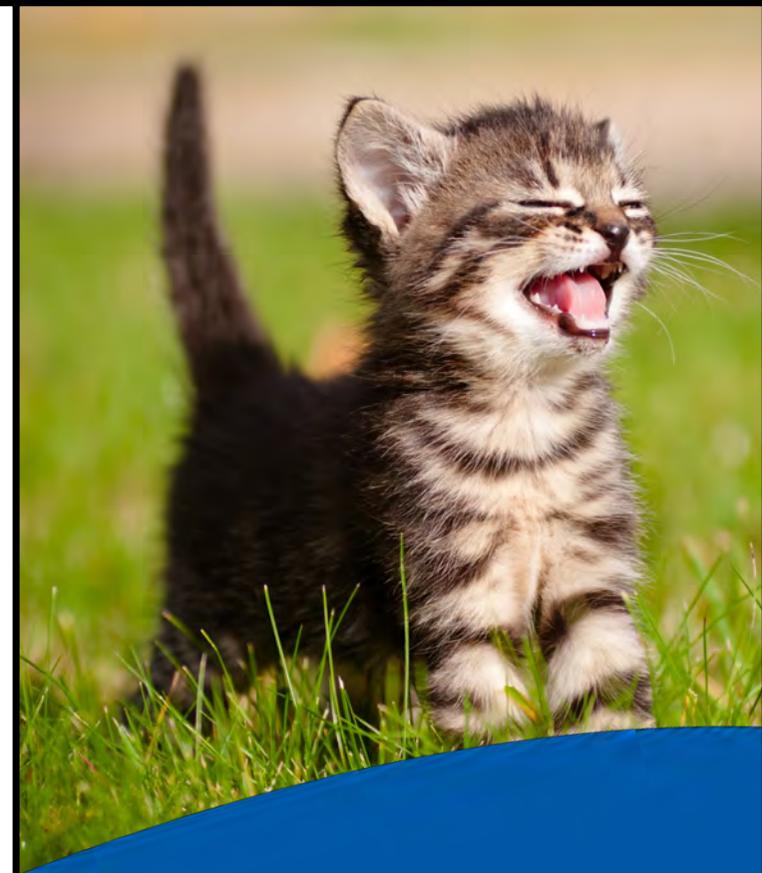
It is also a good idea for your pet to wear a separate ID tag with its name, phone number and address, so that you can be alerted if your pet is found outside your property.

Cat enclosures

A cat enclosure is a good option to contain your cat to your property. When building or purchasing a cat enclosure it is important to ensure adequate ventilation. It is also recommended to ensure you provide enough enrichment within the space, as this will help prevent them from being bored or developing any behavioural issues.

When training your cat to adapt to confinement it is recommended to skip the morning feed and feed your cat inside your house of an evening and to not let them out again until morning. You can then control and gradually extend the time your cat spends confined.

Adult cats used to roaming outdoors may have difficulty adjusting to confinement. If you are having issues, it is recommended to speak with your local vet.



Responsible Ownership of Cats

Swan Hill Rural City Council

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Registration requirements

Every dog and cat over the age of three months in Victoria must be registered with the Council in which they reside.

New dog and cat registrations can be made anytime throughout the year. Existing registrations must be renewed annually by the 10th of April.

Registering your pet can be a safeguard to help with the return of your pet if it becomes lost.

In addition, your registration fees help provide important pet related services within the Council such as animal control and community education about responsible pet ownership.

Desexing

Cats should be desexed from 2 to 3 months old as they can become pregnant from just 4 months of age.

If you require financial assistance you may also contact Swan Hill Neighbourhood House on 5032 1549 to check if you are eligible for the No Interest Loan Scheme to assist with desexing your pet.

Cat confinement

Cats don't need to roam. If their basic needs are met, cats enjoy longer and healthier lives when safely contained to the property.

Did you know that it is an offence to allow your cat to remain on private property without the owners permission. Property owners may trap cats found trespassing on their property.

Nuisance Issues

Serious problems can happen if cats roam outdoors, particularly at night. Around 80% of accidents involving cats happen at night.

Roaming cats can:

- get hit by cars
- be injured in fights
- catch fatal diseases (such as feline AIDS)
- become lost

Roaming cats can also kill native wildlife, even well fed cats hunt.

Roaming cats can annoy neighbours by:

- spraying
- fighting
- yowling
- digging in gardens

FAQ

What if my pet's details change?

Please contact Regulatory Services as soon as possible to update your information, alternatively you may update details online by visiting <https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/community/pets/pets-registration/>. It's important that we have your current contact and address details in case we need to talk to you about your pet.

What if my pet passes away?

Please advise Council on 5036 2346 or alternatively you may update details online. This will ensure that your animal registration records are modified to reflect that your animal is deceased.

What if I move location, either within Swan Hill Rural City Council or to another municipality?

You will need to fill out an Animal Registration Change of Ownership and/or Change of Details form by attending a Customer Service Centre, alternatively you may update details online. This needs to be completed so that your animal records can be updated or closed off.

What if I take on ownership of someone else's pet?

If your pet is currently registered with Council, you will need to complete an Animal Registration Change of Ownership form. This forms needs to be signed by both yourself and the previous owner and returned to Council so that records can be updated. You should also check to ensure that your animal's registration is currently paid up.