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Wednesday, 02 November 2011 21:02

## New Cat Act passed in Western Australia

Local Government Minister John Castrilli welcomed the passing of legislation which will help reduce the thousands of unwanted cats euthanised each year.

The legislation means all cats:

- must be sterilised unless being used for breeding
- microchipped so they can be returned if lost, stolen or stray from properties
- registered so local government can readily deal with cats without owners

"The new Cat Act then gives local governments the power to deal with owners that are not responsible, including cat hoarders, and with cats that are not owned," the Minister said.

"In essence, the legislation will make way for better management of the unwanted impacts of cats on the community and the natural environment, causing nuisance and damage to property. It also provides for the reunion of cats with their owners."

"Ninety-three per cent of WA cat owners sterilise their cats and for these people the legislation will make little difference as they are already doing the right thing," he said.

To ensure this Bill does not cause hardship, cat owners and local governments have two years - until November 1, 2013 - to prepare themselves and their cats.

This is the first time there has been legislation in WA to deal with domestic cats. Dogs have been regulated since 1976.

See the implications of the laws in the articles [WA cat laws permit council worker entry](#) and [Domestic cat laws to be introduced in Western Australia](#).

2 November 2011.

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