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## **MEDIA RELEASE**



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For immediate release

## **Rangers clamp down on dog and cat registrations**

Shire of Broome Rangers have started door-to-door registration checks on dogs and cats in a bid to crack down on irresponsible pet owners.

The *Dog Act 1976* requires all dogs in WA over three months of age to be registered and microchipped, while the *Cat Act 2011* requires all cats over six months of age to be registered, microchipped and desexed.

Shire of Broome Manager of Environmental Health and Rangers, Ewen Ross, said registration allowed the Shire to identify roaming pets and reunite them with their owners.

“Annual registration for cats and dogs was required by 31 October 2014, and is fundamental in breaking the cycle of issues such as dogs and cats roaming, abandoned animals, illegal breeding and the number of dogs and cats breeding in the community,” Mr Ross said.

“By enforcing this, Rangers are ensuring the cost associated with animal ownership is shared by all owners, and not only those responsible animal owners that have registered their animals.

“Owners will be given until the end of March to comply before infringement notices and fines will be issued without warning.

“Rangers will also report on other breaches of the law such as having more than two dogs on a property without a permit, keeping of dangerous dogs not in accordance with the law, and any animal welfare issues will be referred to the RSPCA.

“Unregistered means unmanaged, and to break the cycle the Shire needs to use the legislative tools available to ensure all cats and dogs are registered.”

The Shire of Broome provides a 60 per cent discount on annual registration fees for dogs that are desexed, and subsidises 50 per cent of the cost of desexing dogs and cats for those eligible.

The Shire also offers a 50 per cent discount on dog and cat registration fees for pension card holders.

**ENDS**