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## **MEDIA RELEASE**



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For immediate release

# **Rangers urge dog owners to take responsibility**

Shire of Broome Rangers will begin a campaign on dog registrations, microchipping and more in October to clamp down on irresponsible pet owners.

From 1 November 2015 the *Dog Act 1976* requires all dogs in WA over three months of age to be registered and microchipped. The *Cat Act 2011* requires all cats over six months of age to be registered, microchipped and desexed.

Annual registration for cats and dogs is required by 31 October 2015 and renewal forms will be posted to owners in the week beginning 28 September.

Shire of Broome Director Development Services, Andre Schonfeldt, said Rangers would be going door-to-door in key areas to ensure cats and dogs were registered and microchipped, to check on adequate fencing for containing dogs, whether more than two dogs were being kept without a permit, and any animal welfare issues would be referred to the RSPCA.

“Registration and microchipping allows the Shire to identify roaming pets and reunite them with their owners, 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 Schonfeldt 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 and microchipped their animals.”

During October, Broome’s two veterinary hospitals are offering microchipping at a discounted \$50 for cats and dogs, along with 20 per cent off desexing of cats and dogs for Broome residents.

The Shire of Broome offers a 50 per cent discount on desexing for residents with a current Health Care Card or Pension Card.

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.

**ENDS**