

1. The majority of cats and kittens who community cat rescuers save from being abandoned by residents on the streets etc, are over 12 weeks of age. Therefore, the rescuers:
 - a. did not “own” the cat/kitten at a time to be able to complete microchipping/identification and lifetime registration on the NSW Pet Registry, nor desexing before the cat is 4 months of ageⁱ,
 - b. should not be charged the extra charges for late payments, nor the extra charge for not desexing before 4 months of age and its late payment charges,
 - c. may dispute the extra charges and late payment fees etc with evidence to support when and where the cats were retrieved from, i.e. most likely where the cats were abandoned,
 - d. are doing “the right thing” by microchipping, desexing and ensuring information is on the Pet Registry, they do not need motivating with the potential extra charges etc.

2. **It is not fair nor reasonable that community cat rescuers across the state, who retrieve abandoned cats, and care for them, microchipping, desexing etc and rehome a number each year, will carry the burden of these pet registration charges which are targeted at the original owners** e.g. \$68 lifetime registration, late payment fees, \$85 for not desexing before 4 months of age, and late payment fees, possibly with penalties.

3. The lifetime registration fee and extra charges, with the fees for not desexing before 4 months of age and these related late payment charges (potentially \$153 plus), should be waived for community cat rescuers who are providing a service to the community and their pets. If the cats are not saved and rehomed by community cat rescuers, then:
 - a. The council pounds will be responsible for each cat to be given an opportunity to find the original owner, taking in (intake), caring, rehoming, or in worst case euthanasing the cat/kitten. These efforts will require a number of hours from various staff for example administration, customer service representatives, Animal Management Officers (AMOs) / Rangers, vet support staff and vet professionals and managers. These hours of service will incur \$ several hundred or much more in council costs per cat/ kitten. The Banyule researchⁱⁱ including the financial case for change initiated several years ago indicate a minimum of near \$450 council costs / cat, not including the vet team for euthanasia and disposal of pet bodies where a cat is not rehomed.
 - b. **These intake \$ costs (estimated near or more than \$600) to councils are much greater than the charges for registration etc (\$153 plus) that the community cat rescuers are obliged to pay under legislation, which does not include an exemption for the situation where the community cat rescuers did not acquire a cat before it was 12 weeks of age or 4 months of age for desexing.**

Therefore, it is logical that support should be provided to community cat rescuers to waive registration and related charges as the intake costs to councils and residents is avoided. Further, councils should also consider supporting desexing costs etc. for carers and rescuers which will also similarly be less than using council resources and personnel.

ⁱ <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/whole/pdf/inforce/2024-07-30/act-1998-087>

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/whole/pdf/inforce/2024-07-04/sl-2018-0441>

ⁱⁱ Impact of a Local Government Funded Free Cat Sterilization Program for Owned and Semi-Owned Cats
<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/14/11/1615> [Banyule Council research]